
Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Sioux County

Prepared for:

Nebraska State Historical Society



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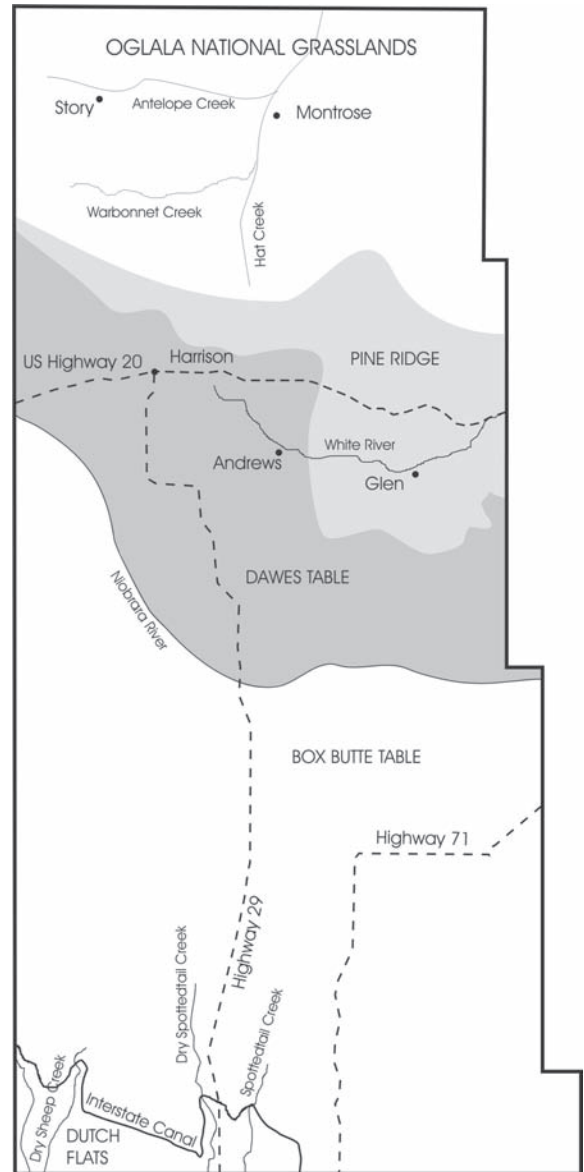
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Historic Overview of Sioux County

GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF SIOUX COUNTY

Sioux County is situated in the far northwestern corner of the Nebraska Panhandle. This large county stretches out over 2,055 square miles, or 1,315,200 acres, and has five distinct topographical regions: Dutch Flats, an irrigated farming region in the south; Box Butte Table lands in the southern half of the county; the Dawes Table lands; the Pine Ridge region that runs west to east through the northern half of the county; and the Badlands.¹

The Pine Ridge Escarpment divides the High Plains to the south from the Missouri Plateau to the north.² This escarpment cuts across the northwest corner of Nebraska from Wyoming into South Dakota. It is a ridge of low hills and bluffs, marked by buttes and deeply cut in places by canyons and ravines. The White River and Hat Creek have incised the deep lacustrine deposits of the area to create fantastic cliffs, pinnacles, and buttes bare of vegetation. The buttes are rectangular, pyramidal, or conical, the size and shape a variable of each feature's exposure to erosive forces. North of the Pine Ridge lie the Pierre Hills, an area characterized by rolling, short-grass prairie with narrow creeks. The Nebraska Badlands are located in the extreme northwest corner of the county. The High Plains region south of the Pine Ridge is comprised of the Dawes and Box Butte Tablelands.³



¹ Harrison Community Club, *Sioux County History: First 100 Years, 1886-1986* (Dallas, Tex.: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986), 12.

² J.E. Weaver, *Native Vegetation of Nebraska*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965), 155.

³ Bob Grier, *Fort Robinson Illustrated*, *NebraskaLand Magazine* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1986), 86-96.

EARLY HISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN OCCUPATION

Northwestern Nebraska was home to the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians. The Sioux tribes in the region (Oglala and Brulé) concentrated in the Black Hills and near the headwaters of the White River in northern Sioux County, respectively.⁴ The Northern Cheyenne and the Arapaho also roamed the region.

In the 1840s, the California Gold Rush drew thousands of settlers and entrepreneurs to the west coast via Nebraska. Between 1840 and 1850, the number of travelers through the Platte River Valley in present-day Scotts Bluff County Nebraska rose from hundreds to more than 50,000 per year. This increased traffic of settlers was a source of great resentment on the part of the resident Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, who believed that they should receive restitution for damage to their land by the flood of emigrants.⁵

The interaction between Euroamerican settlers and Native Americans led to a series of incidents between settlers and tribes; and subsequent reprisals by the Army at Fort Laramie, located on the Platte River in southwestern Wyoming. A series of treaties between the U.S. government and the Indians of the Northern Plains were negotiated to remove local tribes away from major trails and areas of settlement. Specifically, the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 promised each tribe—the Cheyenne, Crow, Blackfeet, Arapaho, Assiniboine, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota—\$50,000/year in exchange for the right to build roads and forts, the rights of immigrants to travel on the Overland [Oregon] Trail in peace, and the establishment of designated hunting and fishing areas for use by the tribes.⁶

The treaty did not satisfy and the hostilities continued. Particularly, the establishment of forts along the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming, Nevada, and Montana antagonized the Sioux, who demanded the forts be closed. After several years, the government formalized the closure of three forts along the Bozeman Trail in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. In return, the Great Sioux Reservation was formed in an area bounded by the Missouri River on the east, the 46th parallel on the north, the Big Horn mountains on the west, and the 43rd parallel on the south—the present-day northern boundary of Nebraska.⁷ Sioux

⁴ Thomas R. Buecker, *Fort Robinson and the American West: 1874-1899* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999), xvi.

⁵ Don Cunningham, *Fort Robinson Illustrated*, NebraskaLand Magazine (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1986), 9.

⁶ Anonymous, *Conflict and Negotiation with European Settlers*. Website accessed at <www.nebraskastudies.org/0500/stories/0503_0107.html> on June 25, 2004.

⁷ Jerome A. Greene, *Resources of the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2003), E7.

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tribes were to move to this reservation in exchange for yearly rations and annuities. Indian agencies were set up by the U.S. government, often at existing military outposts, and run by the Indian Bureau as sites to distribute yearly rations and annuities and monitor Native American activities. Though the treaty was signed by representatives on both sides, many tribal leaders such as Chief Red Cloud of the Oglalas did not want to leave the vicinity of the trails, where trading was lucrative.⁸

In 1876, the Great Sioux Reservation included close to 22 million acres, including all of the present-day state of South Dakota from the Missouri River west to the Black Hills.⁹ There were four major Indian agencies (and three or four minor ones as well) located within this territory including the Red Cloud Agency (later renamed Pine Ridge) for the Oglalas and the Spotted Tail Agency (later Rosebud) for the Brulés in northwestern Nebraska, the Cheyenne River Agency for the Minneconjous, Sans Arcs, and Two Kettles, and the Standing Rock Agency for the Hunkpapas, Sicasus, and Yanktonais.¹⁰ Agencies were set up initially as places for U.S. government agents to institute planned assimilation, but in 1877 these locations were little more than distribution points for treaty-established government annuities. Agents placed at these locations had varying amounts of experience, from Major James J. McLaughlin, with several years experience on Indian agencies before he set foot on Standing Rock in 1881, to the political appointee Daniel Royer at Pine Ridge in 1890–1891, disastrously under-qualified and reported corrupt as well.¹¹

Although the government saw these tribes as having been defeated militarily, they continued a pattern, if not policy, of deceit and reluctance to fulfill the terms of the various treaties made with the tribes. The American public and recent immigrants, spurred by the accessibility of the territory for settlement and harvesting of its timber and mineral resources, and perhaps responding to reports in the mainstream press, generally supported the disenfranchisement of Lakota, Cheyenne, Nez Perce, and other tribes of the plains. The mutually incompatible aims of the Indians attempting to maintain cultural lifeways and the settlers wanting additional grazing lands and mineral rights, led to tense relations between the tribes and government representatives which were in turn exploited by eastern newspapers and plains politicians. In the end, these tensions, exacerbated by poor decisions made by military commanders and abject hopelessness on the reservations culminated

⁸ Cunningham, 14.

⁹ Jeffrey Ostler. *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004) 65, 224.

¹⁰ Ostler, 54.

¹¹ Robert W. Larson. Lakota leaders and government agents: A story of changing relationships. *Nebraska History* 82(2):47, Ostler, 54.

in the popularity of the Ghost Dance in 1890, and its subsequent suppression and the massacre at Wounded Knee.

SIOUX COUNTY HISTORY

Settlement patterns

In 1877, Sioux County was organized as a large territory north of Cheyenne County. In 1883, Rock, Brown, Keya Paha, and Cherry Counties were set off from Sioux County. Two years later, the Nebraska legislature divided Sioux county into four smaller counties—the present day Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte, and Sheridan Counties. Most of the settlers in the county at that time lived on large ranches established in the 1870s and early 1880s by ranchers who had trailed cattle up the Texas Cattle Trail. Early ranches were established near reliable sources of water, often along the Niobrara and White Rivers.

Establishment of the county closely coincided with the arrival of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (FE&MV) Railroad in June 1886. The railroad brought a flood of settlers to the county, arriving at the newly established county seat of Harrison. Settlers in Sioux County in the late 1880s came from primarily England, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, and Czechoslovakia and to a lesser extent Denmark, Scotland, Wales, and Switzerland. When the first county elections were held in November 1886, 451 Sioux County voters came to the polls. By 1890, the population of Harrison alone was 400 and several towns had been established including Glen, located along the FE&MV Railroad, and Montrose. The county population was 2,452.

The Pine Ridge of northern Sioux County provided ample lumber for construction of houses, commercial buildings, and barns in northern Sioux County. Settlers in the tableland and plains in the extreme northern section and southern part the county found little material to build shelter. Many settlers used the prairie sod to construct temporary shelters. Still others used the hard limestone of the buttes in the region to construct a home. Though many settlers succeeded in building homesteads, several years of drought in the 1880s and 1890s drove many out of the arid plains. The population of the county dropped to 2,055 by 1900.

¹² U.S. Bureau of Census 1900, 1910.

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In 1904, the Kinkaid Act was passed by the United States Congress. The law provided claims of up to 640 acres on 10,000,000 acres of land in 37 counties in western Nebraska including Sioux County. The influx of new settlers into the panhandle of Nebraska was tremendous. Between 1900 and 1910 the population of Sioux County more than doubled from 2,055 to 5,599.¹²

Many settlers in the first decades of the twentieth century came to the region to farm using a new technique of dry farming, which was farming in arid regions using a “combination of special tools, special methods of cultivation, and drouth-resistant crops”.¹³ The concept of dry farming was created by Hardy W. Campbell in the 1880s on his farm in northern South Dakota. Some basic practices of dry farming included deep ploughing, harrowing in the fall, using seeds sparingly, and crop



Abandoned House (SX00-123)

rotation—all practices that were designed to retain the maximum amount of moisture in the soil. By the early 1900s, dry farming had become widely popular. Even with the new practices of dry farming the poor soils, arid climate, and high winds in the county made farming unsuitable. By 1920, the population of the county had plummeted to 4,528. The population decline continued through the dust bowl years in the 1930s and 1940s. Today, the population of the county stands at 1,475.

AGRICULTURE IN SIOUX COUNTY

Early Agricultural pursuits

In general, the high plains climate and poor soils in Sioux County were not suitable for cultivation. Though ranchers imparted this fact to settlers, the lure of free land overwhelmed common sense. As Wyoming cattleman John Clay observed “You couldn’t drive the fact that semi-arid grassland regions were unfit for farming into the heads of our Washington sages if you used a steam hammer and then added some force.”¹⁴

¹³ Dick Everett. *Conquering the Great American Desert: Nebraska*. (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1975), 355.

¹⁴ Nellie Snyder Yost, *The Call of the Range*, (Denver: Sage Books, 1966), 205.

Though much of Sioux County was only suitable for ranching, the far southwest corner of the county had suitable soils but lacked adequate annual rainfall for crop production. At the turn of the century, the federal government embarked on a project that would transform this region, known as Dutch Flats.

Interstate Canal

In 1902, the US Congress passed the National Reclamation Act, also known as the Newlands Reclamation Act. The effort to pass the bill was led in large part by William Smythe of Omaha and Kearney, Nebraska. Proceeds from the sale of western lands were put into an “arid land reclamation fund” that would pay for construction of an irrigation system of dams, reservoirs, canals and lateral diversions. Public land within the boundaries of proposed irrigation projects were withdrawn from sale and were to be offered to individuals after the project was complete in 40- to 160-acre parcels. Purchasers were permitted to pay for this land in ten annual installments.¹⁵

The North Platte Project was the first irrigation project authorized under the new act in 1903. The project encompassed five major reservoirs and six power plants with storage to irrigate 400,000 acres of land in Wyoming and Nebraska. In July 1905, the first phase of the project was begun. The Interstate Canal was to transport water from the Whalen Dam located northwest of Torrington, Wyoming to the Lake Alice and Lake Minatare reservoirs located northeast of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, nearly 95 miles away.¹⁶



Interstate Canal Basin and Viaduct (SX00-060)

Work on the new Interstate Canal began with a reconnaissance line being run the length of the canal in the fall of 1904. The next spring engineers plotted the exact path of the canal.

¹⁵ Francis Moul. *Prairie Grass Dividing: The Land, Life, and People of Sioux County, Nebraska*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1998), 116-117.

¹⁶ Moul, 117.

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Bids for the earthwork were let on November 8, 1905 in Denver, Colorado. The engineers who plotted the canals path found the work to be “very simple, due to the open rolling prairie and the absence of all brush, trees, and rocks”.¹⁷

Construction of the canal started in 1906. Two-horse teams moved 37.1 cubic yards of Class 1 earth per day at a cost of twelve cents per cubic yard. The main contractor on the project hired seventy-five men and seventy horses to do the most difficult work, approximately one-third of the total earthwork. The remaining two-thirds were completed by subcontractors. The total cost for canal earthwork was \$666,737.27.¹⁸

The second phase of construction included the water control structures that provided cross-drainage, bridges for highways, water diversion to the laterals, waste water sluicing, and water elevation regulation. Maximum water levels for the canal were determined by high water marks or by the recollection of the areas oldest residents. Ten bridges were built in the Sioux County section of the canal. Grain and hay for the work animals on the project were often supplied by farmers in the area. Indeed, many of the area farmers were hired “either by the day or as sub-contractors hauling freight, excavating structure sites or screening and hauling gravel and sand”. The water control structures on the canal were completed in December 1912 at a total cost of \$187,763.02.¹⁹

The canal had a direct impact on agriculture in the area. Whereas in 1910, only 2,300 acres of potatoes were grown with a relatively low yield of 124,782 bushels, over 2,900 acres of potatoes yielded 335,313 bushels in Sioux County in 1920.²⁰ Irrigation also made possible the cultivation of a new crop, the sugar beet. Completion of the Interstate Canal opened up the entire North Platte Valley to sugar beet production. Both the Standard Sugar Beet Company and the Great Western Sugar Beet Company operated in Scotts Bluff County.²¹ By 1930, there were over 3,400 acres of sugar beets in production in Sioux County.²² In 1941, the 35,000 acres of irrigated land in the Sioux County portion of the “Pathfinder District” provided crops of sugar beets, potatoes, beans, and alfalfa. During the winter of 1941-42, thirty thousand head of sheep were fattened for market in Sioux County.²³

¹⁷ Moul, 117-118.

¹⁸ Moul, 118.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920.

²¹ U.S. West Research. Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska Historic Building Survey. Report on file at the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1995.

²² U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1930.

²³ Harrison Community Club, 12.



Aerial of Harrison, 1922

(Sioux County Historical Society)

TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF SIOUX COUNTY

Harrison

Harrison is located on U.S. Highway 20 in the north half of Sioux County, within the rolling plains along the southern edge of the Pine Ridge. Serving as the county seat, Harrison is the only incorporated town in Sioux County, with a population of 279.²⁴

Harrison had its beginnings as a construction camp for the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad. The construction camp was named Summit as the site was at an altitude of 4,879 feet—the highest elevation of any other “municipality” in Nebraska.²⁵ By the time the railroad line had reached Summit in June 1886, the construction camp had moved on and the site was homesteaded by Henry Anderson. In that same year, Anderson sold the homestead to Edward T. Cook, who platted a town site and called it Bowen—the name of the railroad station at the site. Around the same time that the town was being platted, local citizens organized a petition for the organization of Sioux County with Bowen as the county seat.²⁶ The first buildings built in the new town were concentrated along the railroad line.

²⁴ U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000. Census, Nebraska State Data Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

²⁵ Harrison Community Club, 5.

²⁶ Harrison Community Club, 6.

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In 1887, the town's name was changed to Harrison either in honor of President Benjamin Harrison, or after W.H. Harrison who was a friend of E. G. Hough, the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad postal clerk.

The new settlement became a hub of activity and new buildings sprang up quickly. A schoolhouse was constructed on "Standpipe Hill" and dedicated on February 22, 1888.²⁷ The railroad constructed stock pens to hold cattle for shipment east. The new town was incorporated on April 7, 1888.²⁸ In the fall of 1889, the county courthouse was completed, being constructed of brick fired locally at a site along Sowbelly Creek and timber from the Pine Ridge.²⁹ The railroad continued to bring a steady stream of people, goods, and services to the region, after the Kinkaid Act was passed in 1904, settlers streamed into the area in much greater numbers for their 640 acres of free land.³⁰

In 1889, the population of Harrison was reported by the Nebraska State Gazetteer as 250.³¹ At that time the downtown supported numerous businesses including a druggist, a



Part of Business District and Sioux County Court House, Harrison, Neb.
(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

²⁷ Jane Graff, Nebraska, Our Towns: The Panhandle (Seward, Ne.: Second Century Publications, 1988), 125.

²⁸ Harrison Community Club, 7.

²⁹ Harrison Community Club, 8.

³⁰ Jane Graff, 125.

³¹ Harrison Community Club, 10.

blacksmith, an attorney, a dressmaker, a harness maker, two saloons, hardware store, the office of the Sioux County Republican newspaper, a general mercantile store, an agricultural implements store, and a wagon maker.³²

The town's success depended upon a reliable water supply. Initially, water was hauled in wooden barrels from Sowbelly Creek. Milk cows and other livestock owned by residents were allowed to feed on the open range around the town and "herd boys" were paid to herd the animals up to Sowbelly Creek for daily watering. Initial attempts to hand-dig a town well were abandoned in 1888 when the town borrowed money from the local school district and issued water bonds for construction of a well. Although a well was successfully dug near the schoolhouse, it was abandoned a year later and a new well dug on First Street.³³ A windmill was erected to power the water pump. The site later became the home of the Harrison Electric Light and Water Power Plant.



Seen in Harrison, Nebr.

(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

The wealth of pine trees in the Pine Ridge region north of town provided ample building materials. Sawmills were operated in Sowbelly, Squaw Creek, and Warbonnet Canyons from the late 1880s well into the twentieth century. At least initially, pines were so plentiful that they were often cut and planted in residents' yards to provide temporary greenery in the otherwise barren local landscape.

One year, a Fourth of July celebration in Harrison prompted the placement of cut pine trees along Main Street to provide shade for the festivities.³⁴

³² Ibid.

³³ Harrison Community Club, 10.

³⁴ Harrison Community Club, 11.

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In 1930, a new courthouse (SX04-002) was constructed at the corner of Third and Main by James Fullen Construction Company of Scottsbluff. The new \$100,000 building was designed by E.L. Goldsmith.³⁵ The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

In 1940, Harrison reached its peak population of 500. Today, the town has a population of 279 and serves as the commercial and social center for the surrounding ranching community.³⁶

Glen

The White River Valley was one of the first regions settled in Sioux County as the river provided a good source of water and the valley was in close proximity to Fort Robinson. The area was settled by ranchers in the early 1880s. By the mid- to late-1880s, Danish homesteaders—the Nelsen, Petersen, Martinsen, and Jacobsen families—had settled in the area.³⁷ These settlers established the Scandinavian Lutheran Cemetery (SX03-005) that lies in the center of Glen. In 1885, the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad made its way through the White River Valley.

Glen became one of the stops along the railroad and the village began to grow as a result. The post office, which had been in the home of area resident Daniel Klein, moved to Glen in August 1887.³⁸ The town grew to include two stores, two dance halls, an ice house, two saw mills, stockyards, a school, and a railroad depot and section house.³⁹ In 1923, a one and a half story brick school was constructed in Glen (SX03-006), replacing the old Presbyterian



Glen School (SX03-006)

Church that had been moved to the town for use as a school.⁴⁰ The town reached its peak

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000.

³⁷ Harrison Community Club, 95.

³⁸ Elton A. Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names* (Lincoln: J & L Lee Company, 2003), 177.

³⁹ Harrison Community Club, 96.

⁴⁰ Harrison Community Club, 129.

population of 50 in 1940.⁴¹ Today, Glen is still a thriving community with many residences and an active school in the 1923 brick school house.

Andrews

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad erected a water tower and coal chute about eight miles southeast of Harrison to service the trains as ample water could not be supplied in Harrison. In 1885, the railroad built a depot here, naming it Hunter.⁴² On March 19, 1903, a post office was established. Three years later the town's name was changed to Andrews because another Nebraska town had the name of Hunter.⁴³

The town primarily supported railroad employees who worked at the depot, water tower, and coal chute. The principle buildings in town included the post office and grocery store (in one building), a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a barber shop, and stockyards with two loading chutes. The District #30 school house was built on the hill above the town. The population of Andrews peaked in 1910 at 45. The town began to decline further in the 1940s and 1950s as the decline of the railroad steam engine rendered the water chute unnecessary and as the automobile began to replace the railroad. In 1951, the post office closed. Eight years later the school on the hill closed.⁴⁴ Today, it appears that there are no extant properties in the town of Andrews. Though a house located in the general area (SX00-158) may be a remnant of the town.

Orella

Orella was established around 1907, when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad moved a depot and section house from Adelia to Orella. Adelia was located along the railroad line nearly halfway up a long and fairly steep grade that trains loaded with freight had a hard time negotiating. The new site of Orella was situated at the top of the steep grade.⁴⁵ Unlike other railroad towns in Sioux County that spontaneously grew as a result of railroad activity, Orella was platted by the railroad company with four north-south streets including Young, Booth, Harrison, and Metze and three east-west streets including King, Main, and Bigelow. Most of the residents were railroad employees. The railroad filled two cisterns with water for the town's residents. Beside the railroad related buildings such as the

⁴¹ Perkey, 177.

⁴² Harrison Community Club, 90.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Harrison Community Club, 98.

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depot and section house, there were a post office, dry goods store, a hotel, a dance hall, a bank, a cream house where cream was purchased from local farmers, and a coal house.⁴⁶ During the 1940s, there was even a small gas station serving travelers on Highway 2. Today, five abandoned buildings remain standing at the site including a post office, a commercial building, a school, and two other buildings (SX06-001 to SX06-005).



Orella (SX06)

Montrose

The hamlet of Montrose, Nebraska was established around 1887 in the northern part of Sioux County. The broad upland terrace about three-quarter miles south of the confluence of Antelope and Hat Creeks provided an ideal site for the new town. The small community was established along the Powder River Trail long used by the Cheyenne and Sioux as well as by Euroamericans and the Cheyenne-Hat Creek Road on land homesteaded by James Clark.⁴⁷ According to Elton A. Perkey, author of *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names*, Montrose was named for the wild roses covering the high banks of Hat Creek.⁴⁸

The first buildings at Montrose were erected along the east bank of the creek a few hundred feet south of the crossing. From north to south, the hamlet consisted of a blacksmith shop operated by Frank Meyer, a general store owned by M.J. Gayhart (or Gayheart), and a shoe shop operated by Christian Jensen. A café at the back of the store was operated by Adolf Pickenbrock. The post office was located in the general store. James Clark was the first postmaster of Montrose. James Clark reserved 10 acres of higher ground at the northeastern corner of his property for a church and school.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Government Land Office. Map of Township No. 34 North Range No. 54 West of the 6th Principal Meridian. Surveyor General's Office, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, February 18, 1884; The Lusk Herald. Brig.-Gen. W.C. Brown, Sergt. Christian Madsen, Campaigners in Indian Wars, Tell How "Buffalo Bill" Cody Killed Yellowhand in Hand-to-Hand Fight; Site Located and Marked a Few Years Ago. Vol. 50(2), May 28, 1936.

⁴⁸ Perkey, 177.

⁴⁹ Sioux County History Book Committee. Sioux County History: First 100 Years, 1886-1986. (Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986), 108, 114.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church was planned in 1886 and constructed in 1887. Theodore Remm was the carpenter. Members of the church hauled lumber and assisted with the construction work. The altar was artistically carved by Solomon Borky. In June 1899 Bishop Scannell of Omaha confirmed 46 persons at the church. A rectory was built north of the church in 1890. In response to the Ghost Dance



Montrose Church and Cemetery (SX00-018)

movement of 1890, people in the northern Hat Creek Valley and Montrose constructed earthworks and subterranean structure on a small butte on the Herman Konrath property at Montrose. For more information on the fortification see Chapter III.

The settlers at Montrose were primarily German-speaking Catholics, who were recent immigrants from Austria, Germany and Luxemburg. Among the original members of the Montrose church were the Solomon Borky family, the John and Margaret DeBano family, the Martin J. and Gertrude (Stuffels) Gayhart family, Robert Geiser, Bernard Haas, the Joseph and Anna (Schmidt) Hoffman family, the Joseph and Elizabeth Konrath family, the Jacob and Anna (Vernig) Marking family, the John F. and Francis (Aigner) Meyer family, the Semroska family, the Paul P. and Marie Anna (Frieze) Serres family, the John and Katherine (Ruffling) Serres family, Stephen Serres, the Henry and Katherine (Henry) Wasserburger family, the Andreas and Barbara Wunder family, and the Adam and Rosina (Schachtner) Zurn families.⁵⁰

The hamlet was short-lived. In 1890 the general store burned to the ground when a kerosene lamp was overturned and caught some papers on fire. A new store was built that year, but apparently soon closed. The iron safe at the store was abandoned. The blacksmith shop, shoe shop, and other structures at the site were sold to local ranchers. Only the church remained and Montrose ceased to exist for the next 13 years. The post office was moved to the Jacob J. Wasserburger ranch, located three miles south of Montrose.

⁵⁰ Ruth Van Ackeren. *Sioux County: Memoirs of Its Pioneers*. (Harrison: Harrison Ladies Community Club, 1967), 210.

Historic Overview of Sioux County

In 1903, Jacob J. Wasserburger leased a small parcel of land north of the church and the intersection of Montrose and Hat Creek roads from Herman Konrath. Wasserburger built a one-story general store, partly log and partly frame. The post office was moved to the store. He also constructed a frame house southeast of the store. On April 5, 1904, Herman and Theresia Konrath conveyed one acre of land in the northwest quarter of Section 18 (T34N-R54W) to School District 17 and a frame schoolhouse was built a short distance west of the store. Jacob J. Wasserburger operated the store and post office until 1919, when he sold the business to his brother, Henry Wasserburger. Henry and Mary Frances Wasserburger ran the store until 1949. Mary Frances was postmistress. The schoolhouse was moved to the ranch of Ray Semroska in 1953, when the School District No. 17 was consolidated with District No. 23 and District No. 14.⁵¹ Mr. Semroska continued to use the building as a shop in 2004.

Though Montrose was not organized into a town, the church and school served as the center of many civic activities, such as elections and township meetings, and social events, such as ice cream socials, dances, weddings, and funerals for the ranchers in the area. In 1897 Montrose hosted the Fourth of July festivities for the northern part of the county. Residents from Agate, Crawford, Harrison, Lusk, and the surrounding area including some soldiers from Fort Robinson and Indians from the Pine Ridge Reservation, enjoyed speeches, a ball game, races, dancing to the music of the Wasserburger Brothers' band, and fireworks.⁵² Today, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is the only intact structure remaining at the Montrose townsite. At its peak in 1910, Montrose included 24 inhabitants.

⁵¹ Sioux County History Book Committee, 130.

⁵² Sioux County History Book Committee, 11.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

The high plains of western Nebraska are well suited to the business of ranching. Sioux County is home to the shortgrass prairie, defined as an area with very little annual rainfall in which grasses generally use all available moisture before the end of the growing season. The dry climate of the region cures these grasses retaining their nutritive value through the summer, autumn and winter seasons. Vegetation of the area is dominated by blue gramma and buffalo grasses but also included are midgrasses such as junegrass and western wheatgrass.

The topography and climate of the region is also an integral part of the suitability of Sioux County to ranching. The area is characterized by a mixture of rolling plains and badlands with highly eroded benches, clay hardpan, and steep-sided bluffs. The Pine Ridge Escarpment also divides the High Plains to the south from the Missouri Plateau to the north. This escarpment cuts across the northwest corner of Nebraska from Wyoming into South Dakota. It is a ridge of low hills and bluffs, marked by buttes and deeply cut in places by canyons and ravines. The primary vegetation of the area is grassland, dominated by medium height grasses, but also supporting short grasses and forbs. Consistent dry winds help to dry and cure these prairie grasses. In the winter months, these winds sweep the snow off the tops of the region's rolling hills leaving the grasses exposed for cattle to forage.¹



Plains of Northern Sioux County

Discovery of the potential of these ranges for cattle grazing was accidental. In 1864, a U.S. government trader who became snowed in on the Laramie plains in southwestern Wyoming

¹ Lauren Brown. Grasslands (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1985), 54.

let loose his two oxen. Instead of perishing in the harsh winter, the oxen returned the next spring in better condition than when they were turned loose, having grazed on the dried grass of the wind blown highlands.² In Sioux County, areas north of the Niobrara River had been used for summer and winter pastures in the early 1870s. However, areas south of the Niobrara were known as the “sandhills desert” an area unfit for cattle grazing. Ranchers were so leery of letting their cattle into this area that line riders were stationed along the north edge of the region to turn back drifting cattle. In March 1878, J. C. Dahlman, a cowboy on the Newman Ranch in present-day Sheridan County, was caught in a snow storm while driving cattle near the sandhills region. The crew was forced to abandon the herd. In the spring, Dahlman entered the sandhills to gather up his herd and found his herd and a large group of stray cattle had been fattened by the abundant grass of the area.³

Once word of the suitability of the high plains for ranching spread, cattle ranchers in Texas began to drive their cattle north into these areas to mature and fatten their herds.⁴ Cattle were driven north to Nebraska on the Chisholm, Dodge City, and Texas Trails through Oklahoma and Kansas. As these areas became more settled, trails moved west into New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. So too did the major cattle shipping points, where cattle fattened on the plains could be shipped to eastern beef markets.

In the late 1860s, Schuyler in Colfax County was the first cattle shipping point established in Nebraska. A shipping point in Nebraska was sought after by cattlemen because of dissatisfaction of the freight rates of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Union Pacific was willing to give cattlemen better shipping rates at a station that was closer to Chicago. By 1874, settlers in Kansas and Nebraska had pushed the cattle trail and shipping points west to the now infamous cow towns of Dodge City, KS and Ogallala, NE. In 1875, it was estimated by the *Omaha Weekly Bee* that 75,000 head of cattle passed through the station at Ogallala during that year.⁵

In 1881, construction of railroads west into Iowa and Nebraska, high demand for beef in the eastern markets, and rising prices led to boom in the cattle industry. Authors Robert E. Strahorn and Walter Baron von Richtohoven declared that there were riches to be made in the cattle business. Very little capital was needed to start a ranch on the open range

² Joseph Nimmo. Report in Regard to the Range and Ranch Cattle Business of the United States. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1885), 5.

³ Dick Everett. Conquering the Great American Desert: Nebraska. (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1975), 272.

⁴ Nimmo, 6.

⁵ Everett, 265-267.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

and there were plenty of investors willing to back cattle ventures.⁶ Consequently, ranchers streamed into western Nebraska.

Ranchers that settled the area found thousands of acres of unsettled open range and good sources of water in local rivers such as the Niobrara and White Rivers. The premise that cattle will not walk more than 15 miles a day for water dictated the size of most small ranches. Thus, the ranch being the primary watering hole for the cattle, a typical ranch extended out seven miles from the ranch station.⁷ These early open range ranches were little more than outposts often consisting of a temporary sod or log house, a small shelter for horses, and perhaps a small outbuilding.

Edgar Beecher Bronson may have been one of the first ranchers in the county when he brought his first herd to Deadman's Creek in 1878. The Deadman Ranch (Three Crows



Unknown Ranch in Sioux County

(Sioux County Historical Society Photograph Collections)

⁶ Yost, 121-122.

⁷ Everett, 273.

brand) was located five miles south of Fort Robinson near the county line. Charles F. Coffee established the O 10 Bar Ranch on Hat Creek in 1879 (SX00-017). Dr. E.B. Graham also established the O 4 Ranch on the Niobrara River around that same time (Agate Springs Ranch, SX00-002). S. F. Emmons and Bob Brewster



A Ranchman's Home

(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

established the Warbonnet Ranch in 1878 (SX00-020).⁸ Other early ranches in the area include Weeks Ranch and Graham & Snyder Ranch both established in 1878.⁹

Edgar Beecher Bronson was the nephew of famed preacher and author, Henry Ward Beecher. Formerly a reporter for the New York Tribune, Bronson headed west in 1877 to learn the cattle business under the directive of Clarence King—first director of the United States Geological Survey and owner of large mining and cattle operations in the American West.¹⁰ Bronson worked for one season in Wyoming before starting his own ranch with 716 cows with calves. Bronson chose Sioux County for the site of his first ranch. In 1878, the country was truly the frontier:

For three years we had no county organization. Every man was a law unto himself. In the extreme northwest corner of Nebraska we were nominally attached for all legal and taxable purposes to the next organized county on the east, Holt, whose county seat, O'Neil (sic.), lay nearly three hundred miles away. But in merry frontier practice, Indians and road agents were so industrious that for the first three years of our occupation no tax assessor or other county or state official ever appeared as a reminder that, technically, we dwelt within the pale of the law.¹¹

⁸ Francis Moul. *Prairie Grass Dividing: The Land, Life, and People of Sioux County, Nebraska*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1998), 84-85.

⁹ G.L. Shumway. *Map of Early Cattle Ranches in Western Nebraska*. Original surveyor map on file at the Nebraska State Historical Society Library and Archives, Lincoln. The Coffee Ranch appears to be the only surviving pioneer ranch in the county

¹⁰ Moul, 85.

¹¹ Moul, 85.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

Colonel Charles F. Coffee was born in southeastern Missouri on May 7, 1847. After the Civil War, the Coffee family moved to Texas and in 1871, Coffee was hired by his half-sister's husband to help drive cattle from Texas to the Wyoming Territory. Eventually, Coffee established a ranch in the high plains of southeastern Wyoming. In 1879, Coffee moved to Hat Creek in Sioux County where the water flow was more reliable (SX00-017).¹² Coffee continued to ranch and expand his holdings throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Charles' younger brother Buff also established a ranch in the Hat Creek Valley that was eventually named the Lickett Ranch.¹³

In 1902, Charles entered into a partnership with his eldest son, John Toney Coffee. Charles Coffee expanded his interests into banking in 1900 with the purchase of the First National Bank of Chadron. He was named President of the bank in 1905 and served in that capacity until 1935. In 1925, Coffee helped to organize the Sioux National Bank in Harrison. Charles Coffee passed away on December 8, 1935, but his descendants carried on the ranching business, which today, is one of the predominant ranches in Sioux County.

Elisha Barker Graham and wife Mary Eliza Hitchison Graham established the O 4 Ranch [Agate Springs Ranch, SX00-002] in 1879. The Grahams spent their winters in Cheyenne and their summers on the ranch. The Grahams had two daughters, Kate and Clara. In 1886, Kate married James H. Cook, a frontiersman, hunter and cattleman from Cheyenne. Two years later, following the Die-Out of 1887, James paid \$5,000 for the O 4 Ranch. During his years as a hunter, Cook became good friends with Red Cloud, Chief of the Sioux. He first met Red Cloud at the Red Cloud Agency near Fort Robinson. Red Cloud would often camp in the Niobrara River valley near the O 4 Ranch to hunt and talk with Cook, often bringing gifts for Cook's children.¹⁴

Unlike many of the area ranchers, James Cook diversified his operation to include among other things, raising trotters and pacers for harness racing. He had a half-mile "training" track constructed in the meadow near the ranch. However, the scheme led to naught as he lost his prize mare, which got its throat cut on a fence nail, and his yearlings, which were electrocuted by a wire fence that was struck by lightning.¹⁵

¹² Moul, 86.

¹³ Jamie Williams Bell. Born A Rebel: The Life and Times of Nebraska Cattleman Charles Franklin Coffee, (Chadron State College, Chadron, 1995), 103.

¹⁴ Dorothy C. Meade. *The Story of Agate Springs Ranch*. (Scottsbluff: Print Express, 1990), 2-6.

¹⁵ Meade, 9.

HISTORY OF BRANDING IN NEBRASKA AND SIOUX COUNTY

In 1866, the Nebraska Territorial legislature passed a law that required distinctive brands for marked stock. Each brand was to be registered with the local county clerk. Duplicated brands were fined from \$20 to \$100. Altering or defacing a brand was also subject to fine or forfeiture of the defaced animal.

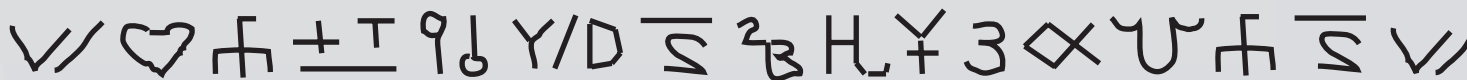
In 1877, the Nebraska legislature passed a law that required cattle owners to record their brands in the county clerk's offices of each county west of a line between ranges 16 and 17 west except for Dawson, Gosper, Phelps, Harlan, Furnas, and Red Willow Counties. This same law made the penalty for defacing or misbranding cattle a fine of \$2,000 and a five year jail sentence. The law also prohibited ear-marking of more than half of the ear and solid brands.¹

Though the regional brand registration system addressed the concern of stealing stock by altering the brand to a newly registered brand, ranchers were not satisfied with the system feeling it was still too easy for brands to be altered. In 1879, the state legislature amended the 1877 act, creating a brand committee for each county that consisted of the county clerk and two "bona fide" stockmen of the county that were appointed by the county commissioners. The purpose of the committee was to review new brands to ensure that they were distinctive from existing brands. The committee had the power to request that the design of a new brand be changed to make it more distinctive. They were also required to reject any brand that added a bar; a quarter, half, or full circle; or a quarter, half, or full diamond to a previously registered brand. Merely adding these shapes to an existing brand did not provide a brand that was distinctive and not easily replicated. In 1898, the Nebraska legislature enacted a brand law that required statewide registration of brands, which started on July 1, 1899.²

BRAND TYPOLOGY

Brands can include symbols such as numbers, letters, symbols, slashes, dots, bars, circles or part circles, diamonds, boxes, or triangles. Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, and outside to inside. So for example, H3 would be read as "H Three Bar" and (=) would be "Quarter Circle Double Bars Quarter Circle".³ Brands could be placed on the jaw, neck, ribs, shoulder, and hip on each side of an animal. The neck location was primarily used for branding horses.⁴ Besides the ranch brand, cattle often had two other brands: the road-brand, which helped drovers keep track of cattle, and the tally-brand used to count the number of cattle on a range.⁵

Most cattle brands consisted of simple combinations of letters or numbers and shapes that signified the name of the ranch such as 7—L (Seven Bar Ell) or A2 (Big-A-Two). Creation of a brand design often had special significance. Some brands were simply a combination of the owners initials such as the GT brand registered in Sioux County on February 7, 1887 by George Turner (Nunn n.d.:5).



History of Ranching in Sioux County

Owners initials formed connected type brands. Dr. E. B. Graham of Sioux County chose the 04 (O Four) brand because his ranch was located near the 104th meridian. Col. C. F. Coffee's brands, 3 (Square Topped Three Bar) and 010 (O Ten Bar), were both brands that were from herds trailed up from Texas. Indeed, the 3 (Square Topped Three Bar) Brand was originally a trail brand.⁶

Some brands have characteristics that fall into the following categories:

| Category | Characteristic | Example of Brands |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Leaning | Letters or characters leaning or oriented in a slanted position | |
| Lazy | Letters or characters set in a horizontal position | |
| Crazy | Iconic symbols | |
| Broken | Letters or characters that are split or broken into sections | Broken B |
| Flying | Short curved strokes or "wings" at the top of the brand | |
| Walking | Short bars at the bottom of the brand or angular extensions of letters | |
| Running | Changing angular lines into curves | |
| Reversed | Letters or recognizable characters reversed | |
| Hanging | Letters or characters connected at the ends as if one were hanging off the other | |
| Connected | Letters or characters connected to each other to make a new symbol | |
| Rocking | A quarter circle symbol at the bottom of the brand | |

(Nunn n.d.:1; Dary 2005)

¹ Burleigh, 42.

² Joe Nunn. *History of Brands and Branding*. Manuscript on file at the Nebraska State Historical Society Library and Archives, Lincoln, 3.

³ Nunn, 4-5.

⁴ Nunn, 1.

⁵ Burleigh, 40.

⁶ Nunn, 4-5.



Around 1895, a post office was established at the Agate Springs Ranch.¹⁶ Mary Eliza Graham, Kate's mother, was the first postmistress. The post office was active for nearly seventy five years.¹⁷

The Cooks continued to ranch the area through the early twentieth century. A particular area east of the ranch was rich with fossils. In 1904, O. A. Peterson of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum visited the site and was amazed at the discovery. By the 1920s, the Cooks had set up a museum in their home with fossils collected on the ranch as well as Sioux Indian and Old West objects. The Cook family dream was that the fossil beds at Agate Springs Ranch become state park in the late 1920s. The Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, adjacent to the Agate Springs Ranch was part of the Cook ranch before becoming a national park in the 1960s.

There were two basic rules applied to control of the open range: 1) priority right—first come, first served or first one to settle the range, uses the range; and 2) accustomed range—it was not customary to drive stock off their accustomed ground.¹⁸ The latter rule prevented drovers from stopping too long or too close to an established ranch.

On February 15, 1877, the Nebraska legislature passed the Stock Act, which put into law the principle of the accustomed range. The Act provided for a fine of \$100 to anyone driving cattle off their accustomed range and a fine of \$200 for any drover that stops within three miles of a ranch for more than two days. The fine for driving cattle off their accustomed range was increased in 1879 to \$100 per head.¹⁹

The accustomed range of some ranchers in the area was huge. The vast Coffee rangelands at one time spread from just south of the Black Hills in South Dakota to the North Platte River in the south. These rangelands went as far west as Lusk, Wyoming and as far east as Gordon, Nebraska—between 150 and 200 miles from west to east.²⁰

Though laws of accustomed range protected ranchers' rights to this land, many began to acquire key parcels of land in the early 1880s when surveyors arrived in the area and it was

¹⁶ The first post office in the area was Royville, located on a homestead in the vicinity. The post office was moved to Agate Springs Ranch when the homestead sold his land and left.

¹⁷ Meade, 14.

¹⁸ Everett, 274.

¹⁹ David Robert Burleigh. *Range Cattle Industry in Nebraska to 1890*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska), 52.

²⁰ Moul, 87; Bell, 96.

History of Ranching in Sioux County



Amos Jacoby's Place

(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

apparent that settlers were moving west. Ranchers targeted key parcels that were close to the home ranch, or that contained watering holes or other strategic spots on the range. At that time the Pre-emption Act of 1841, Homestead Act of 1862 and Timber Culture Act of 1873 provided a total of 480 acres in claims. In general, 2,500 acres was needed to establish a small ranch.²¹

So it was no wonder that ranchers often tried to illegally obtain land beyond the 480 acres using a number of different schemes. Dummy entrymen were used by ranchers—ranchers would give cowboys on his ranch \$50 to enter a homestead on a watering hole and the 160 acres around it. The cowboy had to “live” on the land for five years, after which he could “prove up” and turn over the land to his boss. The Timber Culture Act of 1873 allowed title to 160-acre parcel to anyone who would plant at least 40 acres of timber and keep the trees in growing condition for ten years. Cowboys used these so called “tree claims” to acquire land for their bosses, who would buy the parcel as soon as it was proved up. Cowboys also filed pre-emption claims to acquire land—all that was needed was funding from the boss and sworn affidavits of residence on the pre-empted parcel from other obliging cowboys.²²

As the ranchers feared, the arrival of the railroad in 1885 brought a flood of settlers to the region. Ranchers saw their rangelands dissected by settlers’ claims. However, some of the areas largest ranchers had anticipated the westward movement of settlers and begun to protect their rangelands by fencing them in—rangelands that were accustomed

²¹ Everett, 274.

²² Everett, 275.

range, not land owned by a rancher. Ranchers believed that the rules of priority right and accustomed range gave them the right to fence in government land waiting to be claimed by homesteaders or even land owned and left unused by railroad companies. In 1886, a land commissioner report stated that six Sioux County ranches had unlawful enclosures of 198,620 acres. C.F. Coffee & Company had enclosed 6,000 acres, though at the time of the report the commissioner noted that the fence was being removed. Two of the other six firms were in the process of removing fence: Dakota Stock & Grazing Company (5,380 acres) and Dakota Stock Company (61,968 acres). The Niobrara River Cattle Company had enclosed 20,000 acres; the War Bonnet Live Stock Company-5,272 acres; and the ranch of J.R. Hunter-100,000 acres.²³

Though some ranchers saw the arrival of the railroad as a threat to their ranching endeavors, others saw opportunities. When the railroad arrived in Sioux County in 1885, Sioux County rancher Col. Coffee saw the benefit to his ranching business. Coffee shipped his first trainload of cattle out of Chadron on August 17, 1885.²⁴ A year later, Coffee constructed some stock pens along a siding of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad in extreme western Sioux County, just a hundred yards from the state line with Wyoming. Coffee chose this site to cater to Wyoming cattlemen who would save four cents per hundred weight in shipping charges for shipping out of Nebraska instead of Wyoming.²⁵

As more and more settlers streamed into the area, heated confrontations between settlers and ranchers over illegal fencing of claims prompted government action. On February 25, 1885, the Van Wyck Act was passed making it illegal to fence in public domain.²⁶ In 1901, “ranching interests” persuaded U.S. Representative Justin Bowersock of Kansas to introduce a bill that would provide 10 year land leases of public land for two cents per acre per year. This was an attempt to legitimize the illegally fenced acreage held by ranchers in the west. The bill was almost a success having passed both houses. However, President Roosevelt vetoed the bill to back the “bona fide homesteaders” and reject the cattleman’s attempt at a “land grab.” The bill only served to highlight the vast amounts of acreage in the west that was left untaxed.²⁷

²³ Moul, 113-114.

²⁴ Bell, 83.

²⁵ Bell, 87.

²⁶ Everett, 288.

²⁷ Matthew Beerman. Settling the Sandhills: A Study in Conflict. Website accessed at <http://cse.unl.edu/~mbeerman/histday.html>, 2005.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

In 1902, the Justice Department began investigating the illegal fencing of public domain. Interior Secretary Hitchcock issued an edict that all illegal fences on some 800 ranches be removed within 60 days.²⁸ No action was taken until 1906, when several ranchers including Bartlett Richards were convicted and sent to a year in prison. In the meantime, ranchers that removed the illegal fences had the ever growing problem of having large herds and rangelands that were increasingly being claimed and settled on by homesteaders.

Nebraska legislator Charles Cornell of Valentine and Nebraska rancher Dan Adamson attempted to solve the plight of the rancher through the Kinkaid Act. The homestead filing law was initially written to permit a claim of 1,280 acres of land. The large size of the claim would allow ranchers the acreage they needed to survive and would bring public land under the tax rolls. Cornell proposed the law to Moses P. Kinkaid, U.S. congressman in Nebraska's sixth district. Kinkaid introduced the bill to Congress and after the acreage of each claim was cut in half to 640 acres, the Kinkaid Act was passed in 1904.

Many ranchers immediately began to take advantage of the Kinkaid Act. Some ranchers obtained parcels fraudulently by transporting widows and veterans from the east to stake claims on their accustomed range.²⁹ Though the act did aid ranchers in extending their holdings, it also had a devastating effect on the ranching industry as it attracted huge streams of settlers to the area. Settlement of these new Kinkaid claims disrupted ranch operations tremendously. A local rancher exclaimed, "where a settler takes up 640 acres, he disturbed the grazing on 6,400".³⁰ Even if settlers did not fence off their claim, their fields



Settler's Home near Crawford, NE

(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

²⁸ Beerman, 3.

²⁹ Beerman, 2.

³⁰ Yost, 204.

of crops still proved troublesome as ranchers had to employ extra riders to keep cattle out of the fields to avoid paying damages to the owner. Sometimes settlers exacerbated the problem by intentionally planting small patches of corn in the middle of the grazing lands of large ranches to assert their claim.³¹

A series of winter storms across the plains in the winters of 1885/1886 and 1886/1887, caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of cattle on the range.³² Deep snow covered the traditionally wind swept hills and cattle starved or froze to death. Fences put up to keep grangers out also contributed to the death toll, as cattle not allowed to roam into more sheltered areas of the range often died huddled up against the fence. The loss for many of the larger ranches was devastating with many losing 90% of their stock.

This disaster was precipitated by overstocking of the range during the cattle boom of the early 1880s. In 1884, S.P. Delatour, a rancher from Arkansas, was driving his herd of 1,200 cattle north from Ogallala and found “not a mile of fence nor a settler’s cabin all the way to Fort Robinson, but cattle everywhere.”³³ He found the range near Marsland crowded with 22,000 head of cattle. The Die Out of 1885-1887 and the condition of the range proved as a wake up call to many ranchers of the dangers of relying solely on the range for cattle foraging.

The reliability of beef production was becoming increasingly important as during the first few decades of the twentieth century, the U.S. was consuming larger amounts of beef. During World War I, beef consumption rose and beef cattle prices rose to an unprecedented high of \$14.50 per hundred weight in 1918.³⁴ During the war, people were not very particular about their beef buying—in some instances buying very poor quality beef. However, after the war people began to prefer younger beef that was more marbled.

Consumer demand for higher-quality beef and the higher price such beef brought at markets prompted more and more ranchers to improve their herds. Cattle on the open range in Nebraska were largely Texas longhorns with a small amount of “American” or “native” cattle (mostly Shorthorn/Durham crosses).³⁵ In 1904, Professor E. A. Burnett of

³¹ Yost, 203.

³² The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that the loss of the 1886/87 winter numbered 2,086,060. Yost, 142.

³³ Yost, 135.

³⁴ John T. Schlebecker. *Cattle Raising on the Plains: 1900-1961*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963), 60.

³⁵ Burleigh, 54.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

the University of Nebraska warned ranchers at a meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association that range cattle were too small and were late to mature. Burnett suggested cattle that were heavy boned and built lower.³⁶ Higher breeds of cattle also provided more beef than their "native" counterparts and thus more meat could be produced with fewer cattle.

Herefords gained popularity as a breed that could withstand the winters of the range and provide high quality beef. On March 15, 1920, the first auction of Herefords was held in Crawford by Buffington-Swinbank and Associated Breeders. Soon after the sale, the Crawford Hereford Breeders Association was organized and sales were held in the exhibit hall in the Crawford City Park.³⁷

At the turn of the twentieth century inspection of brands was conducted by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association only at livestock markets including the two Indian Agencies at Pine Ridge and Rosebud, Omaha, Kansas City, Sioux City, Chicago, and other points maintained for members of the WSGA.³⁸ Association members were assessed a fee for the inspection service. However, non-members also benefited from the service, without paying the fee. This led to severe financial problems in various stock growers' associations. In 1927, inspection of all cattle going through livestock markets was required by the Nebraska legislature to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

Throughout this period ranchers began adopting a concept termed by John T. Schlebecker as ranch farming. The Die Out of 1885-87 demonstrated the unreliability of the open range for foraging. In general, 30-40 acres of land was needed to fatten one cow for market. This meant that a ranch with just 1,000 head of cattle would need 30-40,000 acres to survive—a number equal to over 46 sections of land. The new ranch farmer reduced the size of his herd and produced hay in the summer to provide supplemental feed over winter months. Those ranchers that had better quality soils often produced hay and other fodder as cash crops.³⁹ The concept spread as by 1910, 84% of livestock on the plains was fed from the range. By 1920, 80% of livestock feed came from the range.⁴⁰

³⁶ Yost, 276.

³⁷ Pinney, C40.

³⁸ Yost, 228.

³⁹ Schlebecker, 97.

⁴⁰ Schlebecker, 82.



Harvest Scene Near Crawford, NE

(Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections)

The introduction of the new practice of “ranch farming” had a direct impact on the architecture of the ranch.⁴¹ Ranch farming was a more labor intensive operation that centered on the ranch itself. Summer hay production necessitated large barns or other hay shelters and more shelter for an increased number of field hands. Larger ranches may have included a more elaborate house, horse barn, and various outbuildings including some sort of shelter for ranch hands. More of the seasonal activities of branding, calving, and sorting livestock began to be conducted on the ranch rather than out on the range. Ranches in the early 20th century were more carefully planned than ranches on the open range. The ranch house was often situated on the north or west side of the complex with the barn on the south or east side. The yard around the house was often fenced to keep cattle and other livestock out.

Through the 1920s, ranchers increased their production of forage crops including wild grasses, hay, tame cultivated grasses such as crested wheatgrass and alfalfa. In 1930, hay crops

⁴¹ The term “ranch-farming” is extensively used by John T. Schlebecker in *Cattle Raising on the Plains: 1900-1961*.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

covered 42,544 acres in Dawes County and 45,678 acres in Sioux County.⁴² Undoubtedly, those ranchers that had a surplus of hay gained extra income from the sale of forage crops to other ranchers. This may have been particularly true of ranchers in Dawes County, where better quality soils allowed for more forage production. Many ranchers shifted from winter feeding to more regular “maintenance” feeding.⁴³ By 1924, up to two tons of hay was put into storage for each cow for winter feeding.⁴⁴

As quickly as the new concept of ranch-farming was adopted, it was replaced in some instances by pasture farming where ranchers rotated parcels for grazing in certain seasons.⁴⁵ This practice was combined with supplemental feeding to produce the largest amount of meat per acre.⁴⁶ The evolution of ranching on the plains was moving toward more control of all aspects of the business. Ranchers began to develop better water facilities instead of relying solely on natural resources such as springs and streams. Calving and sorting of cattle was increasingly done on the ranch rather than on the range. Research by state agricultural experiment stations showed that closer supervision of calving and young calves lessened mortality rates and improved the quality of beef. This was especially important as consumers were increasingly demanding younger more tender cuts of beef. Hay and other forage crops were dried and stored in barns or out in the open in open sided hay sheds or in piles.

The centralization of ranching activities such as calving and sorting of cattle had an impact on the ranch. Structures such as cattle



Nels Engebretsen Ranch, Sioux Co.

(Sioux County Historical Society Photograph Collections)

⁴² U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1930.

⁴³ Schlebecker, 83-84.

⁴⁴ Schlebecker, 96.

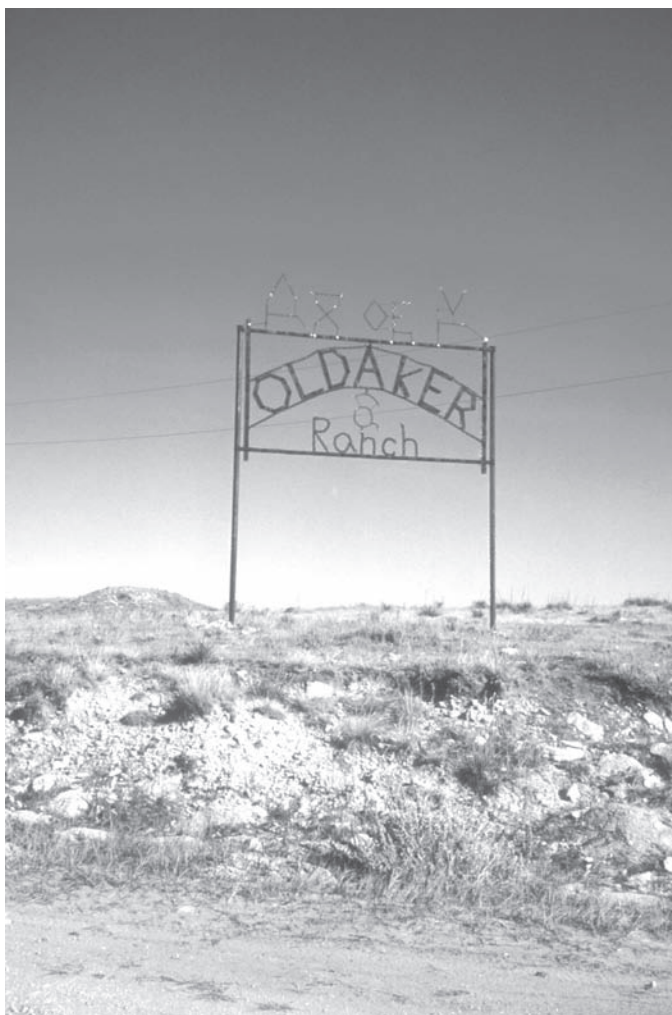
⁴⁵ Rotating livestock between winter and summer pastures is common practice in present-day Sioux County.

⁴⁶ Schlebecker, 92-93.

chutes, corrals, calving sheds, and sorting sheds began to appear on the ranch as activities moved from the open range to the ranch. Complexes as a whole were set back quite a distance from the road, so much so that ranchers often put up elaborate signs to mark the entry to their ranch. The range also began to change as ranchers improved water supplies by building windmills and wells on their ranges.⁴⁷

The depression and severe drought of the 1920s and 1930s caused the loss of many cattle on the western ranges. Ranchers who switched to ranch and pasture farming were less affected by the drought than those who relied solely on the range. Several government drought relief programs were put into place to aid ranchers including the Drought Relief Service, which purchased nearly 8 million cattle by the end of 1934 and provided ranchers with emergency feed loans.⁴⁸ The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 was also passed to regulate grazing millions of acres of public land.

Feedlot operations began to spring up in the mid twentieth century, where cattle were fattened for market in feedlots rather than on the range. The process of shipping cattle to market and penning them up until they could be inspected caused the cattle to lose weight, and value.⁴⁹ Some feedlots requested that inspection be done at local feedlots or shipping points. The stock grower's resisted this as they were barely covering expenses for inspectors at the major markets, let alone adding extra inspectors at the local level. The problem of



Entrance Sign for Oldaker Ranch (SX00-241)

⁴⁷ Schlebecker, 113.

⁴⁸ Schlebecker, 141.

⁴⁹ Yost, 242.

History of Ranching in Sioux County

inspection was precipitated by the emergence of the trucking industry and local livestock sales rings.

In the early 1930s, small local livestock sale rings became more widespread. Cattle could be easily hauled to these local rings with trucks. Local sales rings were often un-inspected by brand or health inspectors. As a result, cattle theft or cattle rustling became more widespread than ever. “Rubber tired rustlers” used trucks to load cattle from often remote pastures and transport them to far away markets or to local markets that were not brand inspected. Stock associations attempted to combat this problem by backing a law that required drivers transporting livestock to carry certificates authorizing the transport of livestock.⁵⁰

Diseases have plagued ranchers since the days of the open range. Tick fever was one of the first serious diseases on the northern ranges, brought up on cattle trailed onto the northern ranges from Texas. The disease was so serious that Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri banned movement of Texas cattle through their states. The serious impact of these diseases on the fast emerging cattle industry prompted the government to establish the Bureau of Animal Husbandry in 1884. The Bureau immediately began to tackle the Tick fever epidemic, which was finally brought under control by 1917.⁵¹

The proliferation of local un-inspected sales rings in the 1930s brought about a serious outbreak of mange or scabies in 1936. The Nebraska Bureau of Animal Husbandry, under the direction of its Chief, Dr. J. M. Anderson, initiated an extensive dipping program. Every cow had to be dipped in a hot sulphurous liquid to eliminate the disease. Some of the larger ranches built dipping chutes that could be used by the surrounding smaller ranches.⁵² After several years, the disease was brought to a halt.

The drought and depression of the 1920s and 1930s drove many settlers out of Sioux and Dawes Counties. Many ranchers bought claims from these settlers and expanded their holdings. The average farm size in Sioux County in 1930 was 1,305 acres as compared to 1,636 in 1940. Farms in Dawes County averaged 954 acres in 1930 compared to 1,011 acres in 1940.⁵³

⁵⁰ Yost, 247.

⁵¹ Schlebecker, 65.

⁵² Yost, 255-256.

⁵³ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1930 and 1940.

Many Sioux County ranchers established a second home in Harrison in the mid to late nineteenth century. Town homes for ranchers became popular after the blizzard of 1949, when many families became trapped in their remote ranches with very few supplies. As the only high school in the county is in Harrison, many purchased a town home when their children were ready to attend school. Some ranchers' children also stayed with relatives or friends in Harrison.

The advent of the automobile brought changes to everyday activities on the ranch. Instead of riding on horseback to drive livestock from the summer to winter pasture, many ranchers began using trailers to haul small numbers of cattle and ATVs to drive larger herds. Some of the larger ranches even utilize planes to survey conditions of the range and the herd. However, some ranchers still use horses in their daily operations and have resisted use of ATVs.

Mechanization also had an impact on the make-up of the ranch. As threshers, tractors and other machinery grew in size, old barns were replaced by metal sheds and other prefabricated buildings. Some of the old ranch houses were also replaced with more modern structures. In the more remote regions of the area, extended family members often live on one ranch in two or more separate houses. These extended family ranch complexes are particularly common in southern and western Sioux County.



Oldaker Ranch (SX00-241)

History of Ranching in Sioux County

After World War II, large commercial feedlots had begun to emerge. In 1945, around one million cattle were finished in feedlots. That number jumped to 1.4 million in 1959; and 4.02 million in 1972. So, rather than producing finished beef, ranchers in western Nebraska began to sell steers to these large feedlot operations, where they are fattened and sent to market.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Yost, 293.

Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site

The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site-Montrose Townsite and Fortification lies within the present-day Oglala National Grassland in the Pine Ridge Region of northwest Nebraska. The topography of this grassland preserve is a mixture of rolling plains and badlands characterized by highly eroded benches, clay hardpan, and steep-sided bluffs. Approximately 340 acres of this Plains environment comprise the site. This landscape is characterized by undulating, open natural grassland cut by dry stream beds that are tributary to Hat Creek, which flows south through the extreme western portion of the historic property. Apart from Warbonnet Creek, the most prominent natural features are two conical shale buttes, each about 90 feet high, which afford long views in all directions: Red Cloud Buttes to the southeast, Hat Creek Breaks and Sherrill Hills to the west, Waldon Hills to the east, and the Black Hills to the north.

The Landscape

The primary vegetation of the area is grassland, dominated by medium height grasses, but also supporting short grasses and forbs.¹ Eastern red cedar and juniper trees and shrubs are scattered through the grasslands. Streams and ponds are bordered by cottonwood, green ash, boxelder, willow, wildrose, and silver buffaloberry. The Pine Ridge country to the south and southwest is timbered by ponderosa pine (western yellow pine). The abundant stands of quaking aspen, American



Dry stream bed of Hat Creek

¹ USDA 2002.

elm, chokecherry, black raspberry, and Oregon grape once common in the area are no longer present.²

The southern of the two buttes retains traces of the earth and log fortifications erected by residents of the area in 1890-91 who were fearful of an attack by Indians inspired by the Ghost Dance cult. The remains of the fortification are comprised of a shallow



View North of Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site

trench, which was the breastworks or entrenchment around the crest of the butte, and a rectangular depression that is the remnant of the subterranean room. Excavation of the room by the settlers created the present-day saddle in the slope on the south side of the butte.

Two graveled county roads (Hat Creek Road and Montrose Road) constructed in the 1910s intersect in the central portion of the site. A third road segment, essentially an unimproved vehicle trail, extends north at least a mile from Montrose Road. The rough two-track trail forks and the eastern fork of the trail runs northeasterly to and over the south end of the southern of the two conical buttes. No surface evidence of the Powder River Trail or the Cheyenne-Hat Creek Road, also known as the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage Road, is present and their specific location is unknown. However, a Government Land Office (GLO) map of the county shows the Cheyenne-Hat Creek Road entering Section 18 from the southwest, generally following the angled portion of Hat Creek Road, and running northeasterly along the west side of the two conical buttes.

Wooden utility poles, carrying power and communications lines, stand at regular intervals along the north side of Montrose Road and the east side of Hat Creek Road extending

² Mike Moore, Fort Robinson Illustrated, *NebraskaLand Magazine* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1986), 99.

Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site

south from the junction of Montrose Road. Fencing is another linear feature of this historic landscape. Fences, constructed with rough hewn cedar posts and barbed wire are located on both sides of Hat Creek and Montrose roads. The fences enclose pastures on the south side of the roads and the Oglala National Grasslands on the north side of the roads.

Warbonnet Creek Skirmish

As military reinforcements rushed to the front in the weeks following Little Bighorn, one body of seven companies of Fifth Cavalry troops under Colonel Wesley Merritt scouted the area north and east of Fort Laramie, and west of the Lakota agencies of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail near Camp Robinson, Nebraska, at the south edge of the Great Sioux Reservation. As Merritt's men arose from their bivouac along Warbonnet Creek on July 17, scouts brought word of the approach from the east of a body of Indians, a party of warriors from which were attempting to cut off a small army supply train bound along the road for the cavalry command and guarded by two companies of infantry. Because of the protrusion of landforms in the area, the men comprising the train escort were unaware of the Indians' presence in the area, while the warriors were just as oblivious to the presence of the large number of troops hidden nearby in the creek bottom. The warriors, in fact, composed the advance for a body of several hundred Cheyenne men, women, and children under Chief Morning Star who had left Red Cloud Agency to join the Lakotas and Northern Cheyennes in the North Country.

The engagement at Warbonnet Creek consisted of a surprise attack on the advance party of warriors, including Beaver Heart, Buffalo Road, and Yellow Hair (occasionally incorrectly referred to as Yellow Hand) by Companies G, I, and K of the Fifth Cavalry. Four additional companies (A, B, D, and M) remained in reserve in the creek bottom. At a prearranged signal, the troops bolted out of the creek bed to confront the warriors. Shooting erupted briefly as the cavalymen chased the Indians down the slope fronting the southern-most conical butte and east toward the main body of Cheyennes on a distant ridge. On hearing the shooting at the onset of the skirmish, the main body of Cheyenne abandoned their camp and turned back toward the Red Cloud Agency. Meanwhile, William F. ("Buffalo Bill") Cody, the chief of the scouts, exchanged gunfire with a young warrior named Yellow Hair, who was killed. The troops pursued the warriors for three miles before halting to await the balance of Merritt's command. Pursuit of the entire Cheyenne band continued to within four miles of the Agency, at which point the Cheyenne turned east toward the Spotted Tail Agency. The Warbonnet skirmish represented the first substantive encounter

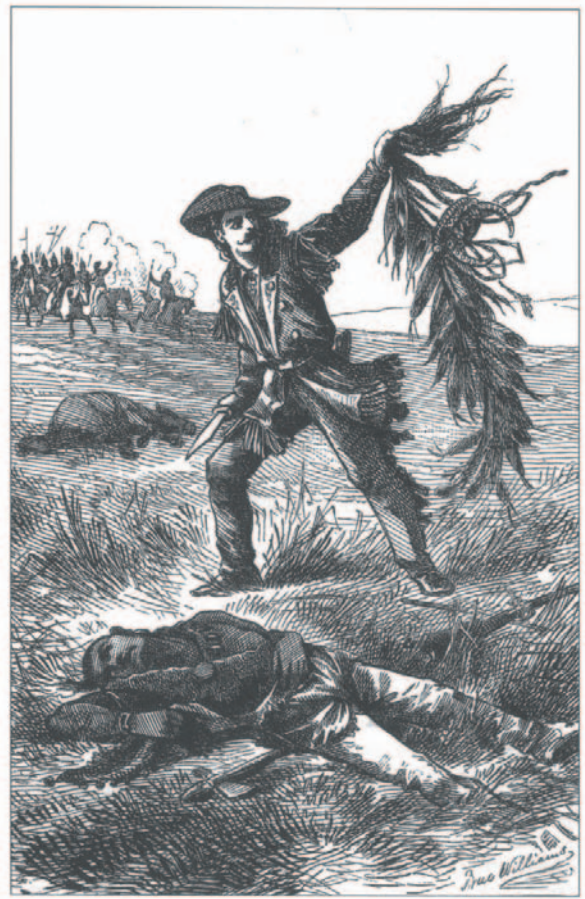
³ Sioux County History Book Committee, 97.

between troops and Indians following the battle at Little Big Horn and helped restore the languishing morale among military personnel after that defeat. Cody's "duel" with Yellow Hair, broadcast in the media (and later played out in Cody's stage shows) as the "First Scalp for Custer," fueled growing patriotic sentiment by white Americans over ensuing weeks and months.

Because of its occurrence during the first weeks following the Battle of the Little Bighorn, its partial restoration of confidence among the troops following that army disaster, as well as its importance in temporarily curtailing further Northern Cheyenne involvement in the Great Sioux War, the Warbonnet encounter is associated with events of major contribution to the broad patterns of American history. Two known accounts of the Warbonnet action by Northern Cheyenne participants have helped confirm the historical facts of the encounter, besides providing personal sidelights as to its impact on Yellow Hair's family. The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site is further significant as being likely to yield archeological information important to understanding this action of the Great Sioux War as an element of American history and is eligible under Criterion D.

Montrose

Northern Sioux County saw significant homesteading in the 1880s, primarily German-speaking Roman Catholic families recently immigrated from Austria, Germany and Luxembourg. The short-lived (c. 1886-1890) hamlet of Montrose appears to have emerged in response to the initial growth of this dispersed rural community. Situated on the east bank of Hat Creek, a few hundred feet upstream from the ford, it consisted of a blacksmith shop, general store/café/post office, shoe shop, and a few associated outbuildings. The businesses offered convenient service to local residents who would otherwise have to travel ten or more miles to towns such as Harrison, Nebraska or Ardmore, South Dakota.



A Duel with Chief Yellow Hand

(Cody 1879)

Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site

The general store was destroyed by fire in 1890. Although the store was rebuilt, it was sold within the year and closed. Local ranchers subsequently purchased and removed the buildings and structures; as a result, remains of Montrose today consist chiefly of two large, deep depressions identified by local residents as cellar holes, three other moderate-sized depressions at the terrace edge northwest of the cellar depressions, and an abandoned safe.³ A large, rectangular galvanized water tank is inset into a hole at the terrace edge southwest of the cellar depressions. It was installed by Jacob Wasserburger to water cattle.

The Montrose Cemetery was established in 1886, approximately one-quarter of a mile east of Montrose. The cemetery is enclosed on the north and east sides by woven (“hog”) wire fencing and on the south and west sides by barbed wire fencing, all about four feet high. A wrought iron entry gate is near the east end of the north fence. A gravel road leads from the T-intersection of Hat Creek and Montrose Roads southwest to the cemetery gate and the front (east) side of the church.



View Southwest of Montrose Church

Immaculate Conception Catholic church, built in 1887, is a wood-sided frame building on a concrete foundation. A small wooden outhouse stands near the northwest corner of the church. A stone foundation north of the church marks the former location of the rectory, which was built in 1890. Two shallow depressions (one large, the other small) are located southwest of the foundation.

The open grassland, which is cut by intermittent drainages and tree-shaded Hat Creek and which features two conical buttes, is a natural environment little different from that of 1876 or 1890. This largely intact natural setting enhances the landscape's integrities of feeling and association. Physical remains of the hamlet of Montrose, although limited, are sufficient to convey the hamlet's small size as well as its considered location near the ford across Hat Creek.

Significance of the Warbonnet Historic Landscape

The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site-Montrose Townsite and Fortification is a multi-component historical site that is significant to the history of the American West. The site has two major components: the Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site composed of the skirmish site between the Fifth Cavalry and a band of Northern Cheyenne warriors; and the Montrose Townsite and Fortification composed of the 1886 Montrose Townsite, 1887 Montrose Church and Cemetery, 1890 Fortification, 1903 Wasserburger Store, and 1904 Montrose School. The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site-Montrose Townsite and Fortification possesses integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. The open grassland, which is cut by intermittent drainages and tree-shaded Hat Creek and which features two conical buttes, is a natural environment little different from that of 1876 or 1890. This largely intact natural setting enhances the landscape's integrities of feeling and association.

The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site component of the historical site was determined eligible for the National Register as it met the registration requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Resources of the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska" and is nationally significant under Criteria A and D in the areas of Military; Ethnic Heritage/Native American; and Archaeology/Historic-Aboriginal, Historic-Nonaboriginal. The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish of July 17, 1876, connotes a broad historical relationship with the U.S. Army campaign of 1876-77 to subdue disparate Lakota and Northern Cheyenne Indians who fought government attempts to force them on to the Great Sioux Reservation, located in the western half of the present state of South Dakota, during the months following the

Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site

tribesmen's defeat of Custer's command at the Little Bighorn River. It is a component site of the Great Sioux War, the nation's largest Indian conflict.

Beyond the registration requirements outlined in the MPD, the Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site component is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Military for its association with William F. ("Buffalo Bill") Cody during his career as a scout, and also in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as the location of a defining moment in Cody's career as a showman and entertainer. Buffalo Bill Cody helped to define public attitudes toward Indian Wars through his stage reenactments and dramas, the most popular of which, "The Red Right Hand, Or, Buffalo Bill's First Scalp for Custer," was directly inspired by his experience in the Warbonnet Creek Skirmish. In these entertainments, Cody portrayed the "wild west" as a mixture of nostalgia and excitement, trivializing the conflict and depicting the Indians and the Indian way of life as hopelessly mired in the past and doomed to extinction, like the buffalo. He included real Native Americans in his performances, the better to evoke the Little Big Horn battle and to reinforce his characterization of Wounded Knee as a triumph of civilization over savagery. Such portrayals by Buffalo Bill Cody defined the image of the West and its Cowboy culture.

The Montrose Townsite and Fortification component is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement for its association with the development of the Montrose settlement, an early German-Catholic community in Sioux County. The confluence of the Antelope and Hat Creeks provided an ideal site for a new town, though the region was isolated in many respects, being north of the Pine Ridge and nearly 15 miles away from the Sioux County seat, Harrison. Established in 1886, Montrose was one of the earliest settlements in Sioux County. A blacksmith shop, shoe shop, and general store with a café and post office served as a distribution center for the surrounding German-Catholic ranching community north of the Pine Ridge. The community grew with the establishment of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Cemetery, located ¼ mile east of the town. By 1890, a fire at the general store signaled an end to the town, though the church continued to serve as a social and religious center for the community. In 1903, Jacob Wasserburger established a new general store and post office approximately 1 mile east of the original townsite. One year later, a school was constructed just west of the Wasserburger store. Physical remains of the 1886 hamlet of Montrose, although limited, are sufficient to convey the hamlet's small size as well as its considered location near the ford across Hat Creek.

The Montrose Townsite and Fortification component is also nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its association with 1890 entrenchment fortifications constructed by the residents of Montrose in response to the Ghost Dance scare of 1890. The region had been exposed to much anxiety and conflict during the Great Sioux War, most notably the battle at Little Big Horn and the subsequent Skirmish at Warbonnet Creek. The Ghost Dance scare of 1890 prompted townspeople in Montrose to erect a large earthwork fortification against the perceived threat of Indian attack. Such actions by area residents and accounts of events by eastern newspapers only increased the hysteria in a region isolated from more populated areas by the Pine Ridge. Hysteria on the part of settlers and the “media” put tremendous pressure on the government to take decisive action, which culminated in the tragic loss of life at Wounded Knee. The Montrose Fortification has integrity of location, feeling, association. Today, the landscape of the area is much the same as it was historically.

Survey of Sioux County

OBJECTIVES

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. contracted with the Nebraska State Historical Society (NeSHPO) to conduct a Nebraska Historic Building Survey (NeHBS) of Dawes and Sioux Counties in the panhandle of Nebraska. The objective of the survey was to identify and document the county's significant historic, architectural and cultural resources. We developed a historical context of the county and of ranching in Sioux and Dawes County. These contexts presented in Chapters I and II provided a framework to evaluate surveyed properties for their possible eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

METHODOLOGY

Background Research

Prior to the start of fieldwork, we examined existing survey files, site cards, National Register nominations, and survey maps from previous surveys in Sioux County. We conducted research to develop a history of ranching in the area and a general history of the county at the following repositories:

- Nebraska State Historical Society Library and Archives
- Love Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Sioux County Historical Society and Museum in Harrison
- Sioux County Library

During the first week of fieldwork, Berger architectural historians attended public meetings in Mitchell and Harrison to publicize the survey. Local residents shared information about resources they considered important.

Field Survey

The field survey took place in November 2004. Berger architectural historians traveled along every public road (rural and in town) in Sioux County to locate and record all sites, structures, objects, buildings, and districts that met the NeSHPO requirements for integrity outlined in the NeHBS Manual. In general, properties had to meet the following criteria to be included in the survey:

- Be at least 50 years of age
- Retain its physical integrity
- Be in its original location

Buildings that had vinyl, steel, or aluminum siding were generally not included in the survey unless they were a rare property type.

Though the NeHBS manual specifies that abandoned farmsteads and houses should be recorded only if they date from the 19th century, a second major wave of settlement in Sioux County occurred in the first few decades of the twentieth century. Consequently, abandoned properties that were built prior to the Great Depression were included in the survey.

We evaluated ranches, farmsteads and other building complexes as a whole. If the primary building such as a barn or farmhouse did not retain its integrity, the remaining buildings in the complex were not surveyed, unless they were examples of rare property types or displayed exceptional significance in their own right.

Particular attention was paid to properties that displayed rare construction materials such as sod, stone, or log. In order to gain a greater understanding of these property types, Berger arranged to visit several properties with the help of a local contact, Moni Hourt.

We recorded each property with a black and white photograph and compiled information such as address, architectural style, general building materials, building types, and integrity. Properties that appeared to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places were recorded with digital photographs. The condition, eligibility, address, and resource count of previously surveyed properties were verified and new information was entered into the database as necessary.

LIMITATIONS AND BIASES OF THE SURVEY

Many properties along public rural and urban streets were obscured by significant vegetation such as windbreaks. Zoom lenses were used to photograph the many ranches set back a considerable distance from the road. Permission was obtained from five landowners through a local contact to survey properties that were not visible from the right of way.

Survey of Sioux County

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

National Register criteria are designed to guide the officials of the National Register, State Historic Preservation Offices, federal agencies, local governments, preservation organizations, and members of the general public in evaluating properties for entry in the National Register. To be listed in the National Register, properties must generally be at least fifty years old and retain their historic character. Properties must:

- be associated with important events that have contributed significantly to the broad pattern of our history; or
- be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Besides meeting one or more of these National Register criteria, a property must also have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. This means that if a property has been dramatically altered, or its setting has been lost, it is probably not eligible for the Register.

Other considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant

for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with an historic person or event; or

- a birthplace or grave or an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves or persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

Four properties in Sioux County are listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- Harold J. Cook Homestead Cabin-Bone Cabin Complex (SX00-028)
- Sandford Dugout (SX00-032)
- Sioux County Courthouse, Harrison (SX04-002)
- Wind Springs Ranch Historic and Archaeological District, (SX00-033)

SURVEY RESULTS

The architecture of Sioux County was influenced in one way or another by its topographically diverse regions. The Dutch Flats area contained a high concentration of early twentieth-century farmsteads and agricultural fields supported by the Interstate Canal and intersecting local canals and irrigation ditches. An interesting barn type emerged in this area—the cross gable barn. This barn type has a moderately pitched center gable on the main façade with double door openings.

In contrast, very few historic period resources were located in the Pine Ridge area—most being tucked up into valleys along the edge of the ridge. The Dawes and Box Butte

Survey of Sioux County

Tablelands contained, as one might imagine, widely scattered ranches most of which were set back between ½ mile and 3 miles from the road. Many of the roads in these regions were in “open range”—having no fencing between the road and the surrounding range. Approximately 25-30% of the ranches did not have a barn—being replaced with large metal sheds. Many of the larger ranches contained more than one residence in a cluster around the ranch yard. Names in the 2004 county plat book suggest that extended family members lived on these ranches. Below is a summary of the number of properties surveyed. Of the 392 properties surveyed, Berger identified 23 individual properties and one linear resource, the Interstate Canal (SX00-060), as eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

SURVEYED PROPERTIES IN SIOUX COUNTY

| Location | Newly Surveyed | Previously Surveyed | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Rural (SX00) | 247 | 41 | 288 |
| Harrison (SX04) | 83 | 15 | 98 |
| Story (SX05) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Orella (SX06) | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 336 | 56 | 392 |

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The reconnaissance survey of Sioux County and background research identified several significant historic contexts outlined by the NeSHPO. Historic contexts are themes or topics associated with a particular place at a particular period in time. Various kinds of buildings and structures, or property types, can be associated with each context. The following discussion defines each historic context and identifies its associated property types.

Agriculture

The agriculture context includes property types that are related to the occupation, business, or science of cultivating the land, producing crops, and raising livestock. In Sioux County, the predominant agricultural activity is ranching, though the Dutch Flats area has a high concentration of small scale livestock operations and crop production. The numerous ranches in the county generally have a house, barn, ranch hand houses, windmill, hay shelter, garage, corral, calving and sorting sheds, loading chute, privy and wash house. Many of the ranches had modern Morton sheds or other pre-fabricated buildings. Large piles of hay are often stored in open sided hay shelters.

Farms in the Dutch Flats area had a house, garage, chicken house, privy, barn, machine sheds, windmills, root cellars and various other outbuildings. Two distinctive types of barn were found in the Dutch Flats area. One barn type featured a central cross gable with a centrally placed sliding door and one or two cupolas. The potato barn features a gambrel roof and is partially sunk into the ground to keep the interior cool.



Cook Agate Ranch (SX00-002)

Construction of the Interstate Canal made the Dutch Flats area into a successful farming region. We surveyed numerous elements of the canal including a bridge, the canal basin itself, a canal siphon, and a canal gate.

We recommend that six ranches, one farmstead in the Dutch Flats area, two barns, and the Interstate Canal are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the context of Agriculture.

- Cook Agate Ranch, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (SX00-002)
- Ralph Morave Ranch (SX00-047)
- Chapman Ranch (SX00-065)
- Abandoned Ranch (SX00-106)
- Abandoned Ranch (SX00-185)
- L. Wickersham Ranch (SX00-205)
- Oldaker Ranch (SX00-241)
- Farmstead (SX00-145)
- J. Bertagnolli (Engebretsen) Barn (SX00-196)
- Lebar Potato Barn (SX00-237)
- Interstate Canal (SX00-060)

Survey of Sioux County



Ralph Morave Ranch--
House and Barn (SX00-047)



Abandoned Ranch (SX00-106)

Oldaker Ranch-
House and Outbuildings (SX00-241)



Abandoned Ranch (SX00-185)

Survey of Sioux County



Lebar Potato Barn (SX00-237)



Engbretsen Barn (SX00-196)



Farmstead (SX00-145)



Bridge over the Interstate Canal (SX00-060)

properties exhibited the Neo-Classical Revival Style including the Sioux County Courthouse in Harrison. Properties surveyed that are associated with this context include twelve stores and a hotel in Harrison.

We recommend one grocery store in Harrison as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Corner Market (SX04-049)

Education

Education is the imparting and acquiring of knowledge through teaching and learning. School districts were organized as early as 1886. The first schools in the county were constructed of log. Some districts utilized abandoned log homes or school was taught in the home of a resident in the district. Schools in the high plains regions were often constructed of sod. As sawn lumber became more widely available frame buildings replaced the sod and log structures. Frame rural school buildings continued to be built well into the twentieth century. These schools often housed both elementary and high school grades. In 1914, a county-wide election resulted in the first County High School located in Harrison.

Commerce

The Historic Context Topical Listing defines commerce as the “buying and selling of commodities involving transportation from place to place.” Property types that are associated with this context include stores, warehouses, grain elevators, hotels, and motels. Properties were one to two story vernacular wood or brick buildings. A few



Corner Market, Harrison (SX04-049)

Survey of Sioux County

The reconnaissance survey looked at both urban and rural schools. We identified eighteen rural schools, seven of which were still active including the Glen, Hillview, Bodarc, Panhandle, Curly, Pink, and Chalk Butte Public Schools. Rural schools were typically one-story gable front frame structures with cupolas and often a gable-front entry. The one-and-a-half story school house in Glen and the two-story county high school in Harrison are both constructed of



Stone Rural School (SX00-286)



Pine Top District #3 School House (SX00-284)

brick. In the 1910s and 1920s, one-story hipped roof schools were constructed such as the Chalk Buttes School (SX00-082).

Two rural schools are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Stone Rural School (SX00-286)
- Pine Top District #3 School house (SX00-284)

Religion

The historic context of religion is defined as a particular institutionalized or personal system of beliefs and practices relating to the divine. Six churches were identified during the survey including the Montrose Church, and three churches in Harrison. The Montrose Church is a gable-front frame structure with an adjacent cemetery. Two churches in Harrison were also gable-front frame buildings though both were further embellished with bell towers and gothic arch windows. The third church in Harrison was constructed of brick in the Late Gothic Revival style.

The Montrose Immaculate Conception Church may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Immaculate Conception Church—Montrose Church (SX00-018)

Government

The Historic Context Topical Listing defines government at the “act or process of governing involving the organization, machinery, or agency through which a political unit exercises authority and performs functions.” Property types associated with this context include county courthouses, post offices, police stations, fire stations, city and town halls, and libraries.



Story Post Office (SX05-001)

We identified three buildings within this context—the Sioux County Courthouse and Harrison Fire Station in Harrison, and the abandoned Story post office. The Sioux County Courthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Story Post Office may be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

- Story Post Office (SX05-001)

Diversion

The context of Diversion relates to sites of recreation, entertainment, and amusement. Property types associated with this context include fairgrounds, sporting arenas, amusement parks, roadside attractions, parks and other recreational facilities.



Harrison Dance Hall (SX04-046)

Two surveyed properties are associated with this context—the Sioux County Fairgrounds and a dance hall in Harrison. The dance hall may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Harrison Dance Hall (SX04-046)

Survey of Sioux County

Transportation

Transportation is defined as the act of carrying people or goods from one place to another. A wide range of property types are associated with this context including trails, roads, bridges, railroad networks, rest stops, gas stations, and service stations.

We identified seven railroad bridges on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad line, four bridges, five culverts on the Grant Highway, a roadside motel and three service stations. We recommend that two railroad bridges and one Pratt truss bridge are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

- C&NW Railroad Bridge (SX00-159)
- Rivet Pratt Truss Bridge (SX00-029)

Settlement

According to the Historic Context Topical Listing, the historic context of settlement relates to the “division, acquisition and ownership of land and the patterns generated to facilitate cultural systems.” Houses are the primary property types associated with this context. The Bungalow style that was prevalent in Harrison and on numerous farmsteads in the Dutch Flats area of the county. One example of a Dutch Colonial Revival style house was found in Harrison.



Bungalow in Harrison (SX04-057)

Bungalow

Bungalow style houses were built in Harrison and on farmsteads in the Dutch Flats region in the first few decades of the twentieth century. The style is characterized by broad eave overhangs, exposed roof rafters, open front porches with tapered square columns that are often supported by pedestals of brick or frame.

Dutch Colonial Revival

The most obvious feature of the Dutch Colonial Revival style is its gambrel roof. This steeply pitched roof form allowed enough headroom for a full second floor. Most examples have separate or continuous shed dormers to let light into the second story.

Most of the remaining houses were constructed in vernacular forms from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. Typical vernacular forms found in the county include front gable, gabled ell, side gable, cross gable, one story hipped, one story pyramidal, and two story pyramidal, also known as the Prairie Cube or Prairie Foursquare.



Dutch Colonial Revival Style House (SX04-068)

Front Gable

The front gable vernacular form is usually a rectangular one-and-a-half story structure with the gable end of the roof facing the street. These houses often have an open porch running the full width of the front. This house type was popular from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century and can be found in small towns and on ranches and farmsteads in the county.

Side Gable

The side gable house form is also usually rectangular in plan but with the eave line facing the street rather



Side Gable House (SX04-060)

Survey of Sioux County

than the gable end. The side gable form can be one or two stories high. Surveyed examples were generally one story.

Gabled Ell

The gabled ell form combines a front gable form with a perpendicular addition forming an “L” or “T” shaped plan. Gabled ell houses are one to two stories high. An open shed roof porch is often placed with the L or T shape.

One Story Pyramidal

The most common vernacular form is the one-story pyramidal house. The distinctive feature of this house form is its pyramidal shaped roof. Houses of this type usually have a square plan with dormers, symmetrical front façade, and often a full-width open porch. One story pyramidal houses can be found both in small towns and on farmsteads and ranches in the county.



R. Tenant House, a Pyramidal House Form (SX00-113)

One Story Hipped

The one-story hipped form is usually rectangular in plan with a hipped roof. As with the front gable form, one story hipped houses often have full width front porches.

Prairie Cube

The Prairie Cube is one of the most common vernacular forms in the Midwest. This house type is essentially a two story version of the one-story pyramidal form. Houses often have full-width open porches and hipped dormers. The Prairie Cube can be found in urban settings as well as on ranches in the county.



T. Hill House (SX00-113)



Abandoned Stone House (SX00-167)



Alvin W. Nicholson Sod House (SX00-009)



Alvin W. Nicholson Sod House (SX00-009)



Alvin W. Nicholson Sod House (SX00-009)

Survey of Sioux County

We recommend that 1 urban house, three farm houses, and one ranch house be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the historic context of Settlement:

- Bungalow in Harrison (SX04-057)
- R. Tenant House (SX00-112)
- T. Hill House (SX00-113)
- Alvin W. Nicholson House (SX00-009)
- Abandoned Stone House (SX00-167)

The diverse topographic regions of the county provided a wide variety of building materials including sod, limestone, and log. Our survey identified one limestone house, eight sod houses, and three log structures. These structures usually date from the earliest period of settlement and are very rare. Many of these properties were small buildings that were part of larger ranch complexes.

Recommendations

The NeHBS of Sioux County identified several historic property types and historic contexts that warrant further study. We recommend areas for future study and priorities for preservation of significant resources below.

Intensive Survey of Interstate Canal and Dutch Flats

The Interstate Canal clearly was an important if not integral part of the development of the Dutch Flats area as a center of agriculture in Sioux County. However, additional research is warranted to ascertain the nature of agriculture in the area before and after the canal's construction and how the canal changed the agricultural and architectural landscape of the area. We recommend that an intensive survey be conducted of the canal and all its components and of the farmsteads in the Dutch Flats area to gain a better understanding of this region.

Intensive Study and Comparative Analysis of Alvin W. Nicholson Sod House

We were fortunate to obtain access to the Nicholson Sod House. This extraordinary ranch house is a hipped roof building erected around 1900. The house was clearly intended as a permanent residence rather than a temporary shelter. An intensive study of the house's construction techniques and construction history would enrich our understanding of this important building type unique to the Plains of the Midwest. The Nicholson Sod House is significant at the local, and perhaps the state level.

Intensive Study Historic Ranches and the Landscape of Rangelands

Though we were able to gain access to a few ranching properties during the course of the survey, there is still much to be learned about the architecture, layout, and planning of ranches in the twentieth century and their relationship to the surrounding range and its evolution from open range to privately held ranges. It is still unclear how much of the current rangeland is privately held and how much, if any, is shared amongst area ranchers. We recommend an intensive study of a small, medium, and large ranches in the north and south regions of the county be conducted as well as a study of each ranches surrounding range.

Oral Histories

Though intensive research was conducted on the history of ranching in the county, much is still not understood about changes that occurred on ranches in the twentieth century. An oral history project could be conducted to gather information from local ranchers on

the practices of ranching, the impact of mechanization on ranching, and the evolution of ranching through the twentieth century.

National Register of Historic Places Priorities

Many of the properties recommended as eligible in Chapter IV are in fragile condition. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will highlight the significance and condition of these resources. The Stone School House is fenced off from the surrounding range. However, a corner of the stone work has collapsed. The Ralph Morave Ranch, one of the few brick ranch houses in Sioux County, has recently been vacated, which will hasten deterioration of the house, barn and outbuildings. The ranch is currently being used to board horses.

Preservation of the Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site-Montrose Townsite and Fortification

The Warbonnet Creek Skirmish Site-Montrose Townsite and Fortification site is significant both locally and nationally for its association with the Great Sioux War, the local hysteria surrounding the Ghost Dance movement of 1890, and the military and entertainment career of Buffalo Bill Cody. Although this important landscape has changed little in the past 150 years, we recommend that the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Forest Service develop a preservation plan for the portions of the landscape that are owned by the Forest Service. A preservation plan would ensure that this landscape reflects its rich history for generations to come.

Heritage Tourism Initiative

Sioux County has a rich history and a striking landscape unlike any other in Nebraska. We recommend a heritage tourism study be conducted to identify areas of interest such as historic places, parks, museums, sites, districts, and landscapes and to develop heritage tourism initiatives in the county. Such initiatives might include a heritage corridor along old U.S. Highway 20 that highlights the historic places, landscapes, parks, and other attractions that Sioux County has to offer.

Preservation In Nebraska

Throughout much of Nebraska's history, historic preservation was the province of dedicated individuals and organizations working alone in local communities. Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, however, the governor of each state has been required to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to oversee preservation efforts mandated by the Act. In Nebraska, the Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) serves as SHPO. The staff of the NSHS Historic Preservation Division forms the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs. The duties of the NeSHPO relating to programs called for by the National Historic Preservation Act include:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic building survey.
- Administering the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) program.
- Assisting local governments in the development of historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments.
- Administering a federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Assisting federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects.
- Providing preservation education, training, and technical assistance to individuals and groups and local, state, and federal agencies.

What follows is a brief description of NeSHPO programs, followed by a staff guide with telephone numbers. Though described separately, it is important to remember that NeSHPO programs often act in concert with other programs and should be considered elements of the NeSHPO mission and a part of the mission of the NSHS.

NEBRASKA HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) was begun in 1974. The survey is conducted on a county-by-county basis, and currently includes over 64,000 properties that reflect the rich architectural and historic heritage of Nebraska. The survey is conducted by researchers who drive every rural and urban public road in a county and record each property that meets certain historic requirements. Surveyors never enter private property

without permission. In addition to this fieldwork, surveyors research the history of the area in order to better understand their subject. The NeHBS often includes studies of statewide and county-specific thematic subjects such as ranching or a locally unique industry.

The purpose of the NeHBS is to help local preservation advocates, land-use planners, economic development coordinators, and tourism promoters understand the wealth of historic properties in their communities. Properties included in the survey have no restrictions placed on them, nor does the survey require any level of maintenance or accessibility by property owners. Rather, the survey provides a foundation for identifying properties that may be worthy of preservation, promotion, recognition, and protection.

The NeHBS provides a basis for preservation and planning at all levels of government and for individual groups or citizens. Generally, the NeHBS includes properties that convey a sense of architectural significance. When possible and known, NeHBS also describes properties that have historical significance. As the NeHBS is in part federally funded, the State Historic Preservation Office must use federal guidelines when evaluating and identifying historic properties. It is important to note that the NeHBS is not an end in itself, but a beginning for public planners and individuals who value their community's history.

For more information contact the NeHBS Program Associate or the NeHBS Coordinator.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

One of the goals of the NeHBS is to help identify properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is our nation's official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRHP includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties may reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style, or archaeological site. NRHP properties may be significant at the local, state, or national levels.

Properties need not be as historic as Mount Vernon or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed in the NRHP. Local properties that retain their physical integrity and convey local historic significance may also be listed.

Preservation In Nebraska

It is important to note what listing a property in the National Register means or, perhaps more importantly, what it does not mean. The NRHP does not:

- Restrict, in any way, a private property owner's ability to alter, manage, or dispose of a property.
- Require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored.
- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation.
- Allow the listing of an individual private property over an owner's objection.
- Allow the listing of an historic district over a majority of property owners' objections.
- Require public access to private property.

Listing a property in the NRHP does:

- Provide prestigious recognition to significant properties.
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties.
- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes.
- Help promote community development, tourism, and economic development.
- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.

For more information, please call the NRHP Coordinator listed in Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Certified Local Government Program offers recognition to local governments that through their own initiative have established local historic preservation programs. Since 1966, when Congress established a historic preservation program for the United States, the national preservation program has operated as a decentralized partnership of federal and state government. In 1980, Congress expanded the partnership to provide participation by local governments. The goal of the program is to increase local preservation activities and link local governments with the nationwide preservation network made up of a variety of federal, state and local organizations. All Certified Local Governments are eligible for grants

to assist in the implementation of local preservation programs. These grants can be used to finance a variety of preservation related activities including survey work, preparation of National Register nominations, education programs, publications, staff support, workshops and preservation events. Besides being eligible for grants, Certified Local Governments receive technical assistance and training from the State Historic Preservation Office about historic preservation.

To qualify as a Certified Local Government, a municipality or county must:

- Establish a historic preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate
- Create a preservation commission to oversee the preservation ordinance and the Certified Local Government program
- Provide for public education and participation, including progress of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places
- Conduct and maintain a survey and inventory of historic properties
- Employ professional staff to carry out the Certified Local Government requirements

There are a number of advantages to achieving Certified Local Government status:

- A Certified Local Government is eligible to receive matching funds from the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office that are unavailable to non-Certified Local Governments
- Contributing buildings within local landmark districts may be eligible for preservation tax incentives without being listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Certified Local Governments have an additional tool when considering planning, zoning and land use issues through their landmarking and survey programs
- Certified Local Governments have the ability to monitor and preserve structures that reflect the community's heritage
- Certified Local Governments have access to a nationwide information network of local, state, federal and private preservation institutions

Preservation In Nebraska

- Finally, but not least, a Certified Local Government, through its ordinance and commission, has a built-in mechanism to promote pride in and understanding of a community's history

The Nebraska Certified Local Government program is administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Communities become a Certified Local Government when the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service certify that the local government has established its own historic preservation commission and a program meeting federal and state standards. The greatest opportunity for a successful preservation program lies at the local level. Local governments have the opportunity to enrich their citizens' quality of life by preserving and enhancing their historic resources.

PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

State Property Tax Incentive (LB66)

LB 66 is a state property tax incentive that assists in the preservation of Nebraska's valuable historic resources. Through LB66, the *assessed valuation* of an historic property is frozen for eight years at the level the year rehabilitation is begun. The valuation then rises to its market level over a period of four years.

To be eligible for LB 66 benefits, a property must:

- Be a qualified historic structure, either by listing in the National Register of Historic Places or by local landmark designation by an approved local ordinance;
- Be substantially rehabilitated;
- Be rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Properties must be listed in the National Register or locally landmarked and projects must be approved before construction work starts in order to qualify for LB66 benefits.

LB 66 benefits the owners of historic properties and the community by:

- Encouraging landmark protection through the promotion, recognition, and designation of historic structures;

- Increasing the value of the rehabilitated property;
- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods and commercial areas;
- Providing a real economic incentive to rehabilitate an historic building.

For more information, call the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at (402) 471-4787 or email at hpnshs@nebraskahistory.org.

Federal Tax Credit

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed in the National Register, or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register or a locally landmarked (by a CLG, see above) historic district. An income-producing property may be a rental residential, office, commercial, or industrial property. Historic working barns or other agriculture-related outbuildings may also qualify.

A certified rehabilitation is one that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Buildings. The standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of the property owner and a community. The program is not necessarily intended to reconstruct or restore historic buildings to exact, as-built specifications.

The tax incentive program in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- The reinvestment of hundreds of millions of dollars for the preservation of historic buildings
- The establishment of thousands of low and moderate income housing units as well as upper-end units
- The adaptive re-use of previously under-or un-utilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas
- Helping broaden the tax base

Preservation In Nebraska

- Giving real estate developers and city planners a tool to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods

FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties; seek ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects their projects may have on historic properties; and afford the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on historic properties. The regulations that govern the “Section 106” process, as it is known, also require that the federal agency consult with the State Historic Preservation Office to: identify historic properties in the project area; assess the effects a project may have on historic properties located in the project area, and; seek ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects the project may have on historic properties.

For example, if the Federal Highway Administration, through the Nebraska Department of Roads, contemplates construction of a new highway, they must contact the State Historic Preservation Office for assistance in determining whether any sites or structures listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register are located in the project area. (A list of National Register properties is available on this web site under the title “National Register of Historic Places.” While this provides an inventory of properties currently listed in the National Register it is not a substitute for a survey of additional potentially eligible resources in the Area of Potential Effect). If properties that meet these criteria are found, the Federal Highway Administration must consult with the State Historic Preservation Office to avoid or reduce any harm the project might cause to the property. Notice that a property need not actually be listed on the Register, only eligible. This process is to take place early enough in the planning process to allow for alternatives that would avoid adverse effects to historic properties: i.e.-in the example above, the modification of a new highway’s right-of-way could avoid an archeological site or historic barn.

It is important to note that public participation in this process is vital. The 106 process requires the federal agency to seek views of the public and interested parties if adverse effects to historic properties are discovered through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. The State Historic Preservation Office examines information provided by the federal agency, the NeHBS and the National Register, but often the most valuable information comes from comments provided by the public. Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) is intended to protect historic and

cultural properties from unwitting federal action: it is truly a law that gives the public a voice in an often unsympathetic bureaucratic system.

For further information about Section 106 review, please call the NeSHPO.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The primary function of the State Historic Preservation Office is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the State Historic Preservation Office in this regard is public education. For this reason, State Historic Preservation Office staff spends considerable time conducting public meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public. The State Historic Preservation Office can provide information

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Glossary of Architectural Terms

Bell tower. A tower, often square in shape, that sits on the roof ridge and contains a bell. Found on churches and school buildings.

Broad roof hay feeder barn. A steeply pitched barn with a broad gable. The steep pitch of the roof allowed for greater hay storage in the center.

Bungalow/Craftsman Style (circa 1890-1940). An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, open porches with large piers, and low-pitched roofs.

Colonial Revival Style (circa 1880-1955). An architectural style characterized by a balanced façade; an entrance emphasized with porticos, pediments, fanlights and sidelights; and multipane double hung windows.

Cross gable (circa 1880-1920). A vernacular building form where two gable roofs intersect, creating a cruciform shape.

Cross gambrel roof. The intersection of two gambrel roofs into a cruciform shape.

Cupola. A small dome on a square, circular or polygonal base located at the peak of a pitched roof.

Dormer. A vertical window projecting from the slope of a roof.

Dutch Colonial Revival (circa 1895-1940). An architectural style characterized by a two-pitched gambrel roof, shed dormers, and multipane windows.

Eave. The portion of the roof that projects beyond the walls.

Front gable (a.k.a. gable front). A vernacular form that is usually a one and a half to two story structure that was popular from the late nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century.

Gable end. The triangular end of a ridged roof.

Gabled ell. A vernacular house form that combines a front gable form with a perpendicular addition creating an L or T shape plan.

Gambrel roof. A roof that has a double slope on two sides of the building.

Gothic arch (a.k.a. pointed arch). An arch where the two sides curve and connect to form a pointed. As the name suggests, these arches are often used for window and door openings on Gothic Revival style buildings.

Italianate (circa 1850-1885). Style found in both residential and commercial architecture. Characterized by low-pitched roof, deep eaves with decorative brackets, and narrow arched windows.

Late Gothic Revival (1900-present). This architectural style is most often used for churches. Characteristics of the style include steeply pitched roofs and pointed or Gothic arch windows and doors.

Neo Classical Revival (circa 1895-1950). This architectural style is characterized by large classical columns, a symmetrical façade, and other classical elements such as swags and urns.

One story hipped (circa 1900-1930). A vernacular form that has a rectangular plan and a hipped roof.

One story pyramidal (circa 1890-1930). A vernacular form that features a pyramidal roof. Houses often have full-width front porches.

Pedestal. A base or molded block that supports a column or statue. Porch columns on Bungalow and Prairie style houses often sit on pedestals.

Prairie Cube or Prairie Foursquare (circa 1900-1930). A square plan house form with a low pitched hipped or pyramidal roof, full-width open front porch, and hipped dormers.

Privy. Another term for an outhouse.

Queen Anne (1880-1915). A style that is characterized by an irregularly shaped roof, an asymmetrical façade, partial or full-width open porches with decorative spindles and brackets, and patterned wall shingles.

Rafter tail. The part of the roof rafter that projects beyond the exterior wall.

Roof rafter. The sloping members of a roof on which a roof covering is placed.

Shed dormer. A dormer that has a single sloped roof.

Glossary of Architectural Terms

Shed roof. A roof that consists of one inclined plane.

Side gable (circa 1880-1950). Vernacular form in which the gable end of the building is perpendicular to the street. Examples can be one or two stories in height.

Sidelight. A long fixed window located beside a door. Often found on both sides of a door.

Steeply pitched. A roof with very steep angles.

Symmetrical. When two halves of an object are mirror images of each other.

Transom. A fixed window or series of windows located above a door.

Vernacular. A style or form of building developed not by architects but by local custom without any pretense to a popular style and often based on the use of regional materials, techniques, and forms.

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| SX00-001 | Sod House (Toadstool Park) | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-002 | Cook Agate Ranch | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-003 | McGinley Stover Cattle Company | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-004 | David Mansfield House | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-005 | John Randall Sod Farmhouse | Rural | Chalks Butte |
| SX00-006 | Walt Weddle House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-007 | Martin Smith House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-008 | Jay Scott House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-009 | Alvin W. Nicholson Ranch | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-010 | John Prosser House | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-011 | Lou Bauer House | Rural | Kilpatrick Lake |
| SX00-012 | Hawthorne School | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-013 | Commercial Building | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-014 | Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-015 | Stone Farmhouse | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-016 | Wertz Barn | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-017 | Coffee Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-018 | Immaculate Conception Catholic Church | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-019 | Bodarc Community Church and Cemetery | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-020 | Warbonnet Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-021 | Park-Hatch Homestead Shack | Rural | Chalks Butte |
| SX00-022 | Charlie Grewell Farmhouse | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-023 | Abandoned outbuilding | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-024 | Log house | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-025 | Log Building on Farmstead | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-026 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-027 | Log Farmhouse | Rural | Crawford |
| SX00-028 | Harold J. Cook Homestead Cabin | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-029 | Bridge | Rural | University Lake |
| SX00-030 | Montrose Bridge | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-031 | Interstate Canal Siphon | Rural | Erdman Ranch |
| SX00-032 | Sandford Dugout | Rural | Mount Edna |
| SX00-033 | Wind Springs Ranch | Rural | University Lake |
| SX00-034 | Culvert marker on Grant Highway | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-035 | Culvert marker on Grant Highway | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-036 | Concrete culvert | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-037 | Concrete culvert | Rural | Harrison |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| SX00-038 | Concrete culvert | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-039 | Concrete culvert | Rural | Crawford |
| SX00-040 | Harrison Sky Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-041 | Warbonnet Historic District | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-042 | Watson Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-043 | Vacant Dwelling | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-044 | Vacant Dwelling | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-045 | D. Marx House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-046 | Schaefer/ Skavdahl Ranch | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-047 | Ralph Morave Ranch | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-048 | Jim Moore House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-049 | Abandoned Building | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-050 | Stangle Farm | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-051 | J. Skavdahl Ranch | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-052 | Wheeler Farm | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-053 | Barn | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-054 | M. Fenner House | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-055 | G. Mazanec Ranch | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-056 | H. Mazanec Ranch | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-057 | W. Shammel Ranch | Rural | Marsland |
| SX00-058 | Abandoned School | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-059 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-060 | Interstate Canal | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-061 | Dinklage Feed Yard | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-062 | Dinklage Feed Yard House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-063 | R. Goodschmidt House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-064 | Muzzy Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-065 | Chapman Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-066 | Henderson Ranch | Rural | Kilpatrick Lake |
| SX00-067 | Henderson House | Rural | Kilpatrick Lake |
| SX00-068 | Powell Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-069 | Hill Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-070 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-071 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-072 | Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-073 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-074 | Paetow House | Rural | Henry |

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| SX00-075 | Wunder House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-076 | House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-077 | House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-078 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-079 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-080 | Abandoned House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-081 | House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-082 | Chalke Butte School | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-083 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-084 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-085 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-086 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-087 | Shoultz Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-088 | Rural School | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-089 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-090 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-091 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-092 | Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-093 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-094 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-095 | Wilson House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-096 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-097 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-098 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-099 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-100 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-101 | House | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-102 | G. Spencer Ranch | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-103 | J. Phipps Ranch | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-104 | C. Kaan Ranch | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-105 | Panhandle School District #68 | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-106 | Abandoned Ranch | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-107 | Abandoned Dwelling | Rural | Chalk Butte |
| SX00-108 | Abandoned Dwelling | Rural | Chalk Butte |
| SX00-109 | J. Costello Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-110 | J. Reifschneider Ranch | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-111 | K. Dagen House | Rural | Henry |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|
| SX00-112 | R. Tenant House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-113 | T. Hill House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-114 | Hoffman Tenant House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-115 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-116 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-117 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-118 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-119 | Schneider Potato Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-120 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-121 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-122 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-123 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-124 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-125 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-126 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-127 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-128 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-129 | Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-130 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-131 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-132 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-133 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-134 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-135 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-136 | Barn | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-137 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-138 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-139 | Abandoned house | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-140 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-141 | House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-142 | House | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-143 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-144 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-145 | L. Austin Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-146 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-147 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-148 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| SX00-149 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-150 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-151 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-152 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-153 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-154 | Farmstead | Rural | Henry |
| SX00-155 | Buckley Farmstead | Rural | Agate |
| SX00-156 | Travnicek Ranch | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-157 | abandoned farmstead | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-158 | Kissell Farmstead | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-159 | Chicago and Northwestern Bridge | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-160 | Stone retaining wall | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-161 | Abandoned house | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-162 | Abandoned small barn | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-163 | Log house ruin | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-164 | Mansfield Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-165 | Chicago and Northwestern Bridge | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-166 | Kremen Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-167 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-168 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-169 | Reece Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-170 | Abandoned farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-171 | Abandoned house | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-172 | Ranch | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-173 | Abandoned House | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-174 | School District #51 | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-175 | Ranch | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-176 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-177 | Nation Farmstead | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-178 | Hamaker Farmstead | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-179 | Abandoned House | Rural | Kyle Creek |
| SX00-180 | Abandoned House | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-181 | Johnson's Place | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-182 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-183 | Nation Farmstead | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-184 | Abandoned house | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-185 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Whistle Creek |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|---|---------|---------------|
| SX00-186 | Painter Farmstead | Rural | Whistle Creek |
| SX00-187 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-188 | School | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-189 | Hunter Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-190 | Watson Barn | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-191 | Abandoned Farmstead | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-192 | Glendale Cemetery | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-193 | Mack Farmstead | Rural | Smiley Canyon |
| SX00-194 | L. Zimmerman Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-195 | Ranch | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-196 | J. Bertagnolli Farmstead | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-197 | Ranch | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-198 | Abandoned School? | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-199 | Bannan Ranch | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-200 | E. Fox Ranch | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-201 | Wooden silo | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-202 | Ranch | Rural | Andrews |
| SX00-203 | Bridge over Hat Creek | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-204 | Bordac School District #6 | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-205 | L. Wickersham Farmstead | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-206 | M. Serres Ranch | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-207 | Neidhart Place | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-208 | Abandoned school | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-209 | B. Serres Ranch | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-210 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-211 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Five Points |
| SX00-212 | Wasserberger Ranch | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-213 | Cody-Yellowhand and Warbonnet Battlefield Monuments | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-214 | Abandoned School | Rural | Story |
| SX00-215 | Jordan Ranch | Rural | Story |
| SX00-216 | Geiser Ranch | Rural | Story |
| SX00-217 | Abandoned ranch | Rural | Story |
| SX00-218 | B. Quintard Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-219 | Zimmerman Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-220 | Zimmerman Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-221 | Former Quintard Ranch (Abandoned) | Rural | Bodarc |

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|--|---------|-----------------|
| SX00-222 | Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-223 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-224 | Wickersham/Chasek Ranch | Rural | Bodarc |
| SX00-225 | Schaefer House | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-226 | Trestle Railroad Bridge | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-227 | Trestle Railroad Bridge | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-228 | Trestle Railroad Bridge | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-229 | Trestle Railroad Bridge | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-230 | Chiago & Northwestern Railroad Bridge | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-231 | Grounch Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-232 | Schaefer Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-233 | Sioux County Fairgrounds | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-234 | Grote Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-235 | Wiley Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-236 | School | Rural | Warbonnet Ranch |
| SX00-237 | Lebar Ranch--Potato Barn | Rural | Warbonnet Ranch |
| SX00-238 | Dunn Ranch | Rural | Kirtley |
| SX00-239 | Phipps Ranch | Rural | Kirtley |
| SX00-240 | Bovard Ranch | Rural | Warbonnet Ranch |
| SX00-241 | Oldaker Ranch | Rural | Warbonnet Ranch |
| SX00-242 | Oldaker Ranch | Rural | Sherrill Hills |
| SX00-243 | Harris Ranch | Rural | Story |
| SX00-244 | Dout Ranch | Rural | Warbonnet Ranch |
| SX00-245 | Farmstead | Rural | Story |
| SX00-246 | Federle Farmstead | Rural | Story |
| SX00-247 | Falkenberg Ranch | Rural | Story |
| SX00-248 | Abandoned House | Rural | Story |
| SX00-249 | Semoroska Ranch | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-250 | School District #23 | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-251 | Geiser Ranch | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-252 | J. Brintnall Ranch | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-253 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Montrose |
| SX00-254 | J. Fox Ranch | Rural | Orella |
| SX00-255 | Abandoned buidling | Rural | Orella |
| SX00-256 | Kolling Ranch/Our Heritage Guest Ranch | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-257 | Sand Creek Ranch | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-258 | Arners Place (Abandoned) | Rural | Roundtop |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| SX00-259 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-260 | Townsend Ranch | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-261 | L. Douthit Ranch | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-262 | Union Star Cemetery | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-263 | Richard Erixson House | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-264 | D. Harwood Farmstead | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-265 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-266 | E. Sprock House | Rural | Roundtop |
| SX00-267 | Harrison Cemetery | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-268 | Whiteaker Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-269 | Sculpture (Guadacanal Memorial Park) | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-270 | Keim Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-271 | Wilson Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-272 | Griesse Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-273 | Grote Farmstead | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-274 | Nature Conservancy | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-275 | Carpenter Place (Abandoned) | Rural | Carpenter Ranch |
| SX00-276 | J.Bixler Ranch | Rural | Spoon Butte |
| SX00-277 | D. Anderson Ranch | Rural | Spoon Butte |
| SX00-278 | Abandoned Ranch | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-279 | Abandoned outbuildings | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-280 | Abandoned ranch | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-281 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Van Tassell |
| SX00-282 | Ranch | Rural | Harrison |
| SX00-283 | High Plains Homestead Drifter Cookshack & Bunkhouse | Rural | Sand Creek Canyon |
| SX00-284 | Pine Top District #3 School | Rural | Smiley Canyon |
| SX00-285 | A. Raum Ranch | Rural | Smiley Canyon |
| SX00-286 | Stone Schoolhouse | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-287 | Abandoned dwelling | Rural | Glen |
| SX00-288 | Quonset Hut | Rural | Glen |
| SX03-001 | Wayne Kremen Farmstead | White River Road | Glen |
| SX03-002 | Commercial Building | White River Road | Glen |
| SX03-003 | Olbright House | 851 White River Road | Glen |
| SX03-004 | Cline House | White River Road | Glen |
| SX03-005 | Scandinavian Lutheran Cemetery | Glen Road | Glen |
| SX03-006 | Glen School | Glen Road | Glen |

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| SX03-007 | Abandoned House | White River Road | Glen |
| SX03-008 | Abandoned House | White River Road | Glen |
| SX04-001 | Livery Feed and Sale Stable | Second and Frank | Harrison |
| SX04-002 | Sioux County Courthouse | NW Corner Third and Main | Harrison |
| SX04-003 | House | Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-004 | House | Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-005 | House | Frank Between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-006 | Power Plant | 1st Street Between Frank and Main | Harrison |
| SX04-007 | Hotel | NW Corner Main and First | Harrison |
| SX04-008 | Oxford Hotel | Main Between Second and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-009 | IIOF Hall | Main Between Second and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-010 | House | Ann Between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-011 | House | Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-012 | Zurcher's Garage | Main between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-013 | Service Station | Hwy. 20 Between Main and Ann | Harrison |
| SX04-014 | Service Station | Hwy. 20 Between Main and Ann | Harrison |
| SX04-015 | Sage Motel & Village Barn Café & Lounge | Hwy. 20 East of Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-016 | House | NW Corner of Grace and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-017 | House | SE corner of Grace and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-018 | House | SW Corner of Grace and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-019 | House | 151 Grace Street | Harrison |
| SX04-020 | House | 120 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-021 | House | 108 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-022 | House | 122 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-023 | House | 132 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-024 | House | 150 Kate Street | Harrison |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|--|------------------------------|---------------|
| SX04-025 | House | 157 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-026 | House | Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-027 | House | 171 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-028 | House | SE corner Kate and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-029 | House | SW corner Kate and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-030 | House | 318 Second Street | Harrison |
| SX04-031 | Memorial United Methodist Church | NW corner Kate and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-032 | House | 426 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-033 | Church of the Nativity Catholic Church | SE corner Kate and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-034 | House | NW corner Kate and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-035 | House | 330 Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-036 | House | Kate Street | Harrison |
| SX04-037 | Garage | NE corner Fourth and Anne | Harrison |
| SX04-038 | House | Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-039 | House | 305 Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-040 | House | SE corner Ann and Fourth | Harrison |
| SX04-041 | House | 235 Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-042 | House | NE corner Ann and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-043 | House | SE corner Ann and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-044 | House | 151 Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-045 | House | Ann Street | Harrison |
| SX04-046 | Dance Hall | NE corner Ann and First | Harrison |
| SX04-047 | House | Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-048 | Kountry Baskets | Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-049 | Corner Market | SW corner Main and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-050 | First National Bank | Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-051 | Commercial Building | Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-052 | House | Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-053 | House | 397 Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-054 | Harrison Fire Station | Main Street | Harrison |

Inventory of Surveyed Properties

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|--|--|---------------|
| SX04-055 | House | 380 Main Street | Harrison |
| SX04-056 | House | Main between Third and Fourth | Harrison |
| SX04-057 | House | NE corner Main and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-058 | Commercial Building | Main between Third and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-059 | Commercial Building | Main between Third and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-060 | House | Main between Second and First | Harrison |
| SX04-061 | Sioux County Historical Society Museum | Main between Second and First | Harrison |
| SX04-062 | House | Main between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-063 | House | 102 Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-064 | House | 117 Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-065 | House | 106 Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-066 | House | Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-067 | House | 161 Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-068 | House | NW corner Frank and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-069 | House | Frank between Second and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-070 | House | Frank between Second and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-071 | House | 274 Frank Street | Harrison |
| SX04-072 | School | Third between Frank and Rose | Harrison |
| SX04-073 | House | Frank between Third and Fourth | Harrison |
| SX04-074 | House | Frank between Fourth St and Highway 20 | Harrison |
| SX04-075 | House | SE corner Rose St and Highway 20 | Harrison |
| SX04-076 | Redeemer Lutheran Church | SE corner Rose and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-077 | House | SW corner Rose and Third | Harrison |
| SX04-078 | House | Rose between Third and Second | Harrison |

| NEHBS | NAME | ADDRESS | VICINITY/CITY |
|----------|---|---|---------------|
| SX04-079 | House | 271 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-080 | House | 259 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-081 | House | 245 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-082 | House | 212 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-083 | House | 209 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-084 | House | SW corner Rose and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-085 | House | SE corner Rose and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-086 | House | 110 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-087 | House | Rose between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-088 | House | Rose between First and Second | Harrison |
| SX04-089 | House | 102 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-090 | House | 350 First Street | Harrison |
| SX04-091 | House | 393 Second Street | Harrison |
| SX04-092 | House | NW corner Second Street and Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-093 | House | 235 Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-094 | House | 259 Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-095 | House | Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-096 | House | 292 Thorn Avenue | Harrison |
| SX04-097 | House | 462 Rose Street | Harrison |
| SX04-098 | VFW Hall | 165 Second Street | Harrison |
| SX05-001 | Story Post office | Story Road | Story |
| SX06-001 | Abandoned school; Old Orella Townsite | 1440 Toadstool Road | Orella |
| SX06-002 | Abandoned commercial building; Old Orella Townsite | 1440 Toadstool Road | Orella |
| SX06-003 | Abandoned post office; Old Orella Townsite | 1440 Toadstool Road | Orella |
| SX06-004 | Abandoned farmstead; Old Orella Townsite | 1440 Toadstool Road | Orella |
| SX06-005 | Abandoned building; Old Orella Townsite | Toadstool Road | Orella |